

When We Were Young – Prologue

After Israel 'invaded' Lebanon, over 2 kidnapped soldiers and Dubya refused to say anything to get them to stop, I began to ask myself why. Especially when it went on and on and on. I had a new story in the works and it was over half done. Derek was home on leave from Iraq for 2 weeks and to be honest, I didn't want him to go in the first place, let alone return. Not that he had a choice; the boy was a true Patriot.

He was riding around in a M1114 equipped with a CROWS, in his case, a Ma Deuce. Considering that he was in the heart of the Sunni Triangle, which was a very good thing. We discussed his ROE and they couldn't even fire when fired upon, their rules were much more stringent. He sort of told me who he was guarding, but only sort of. Sorry that I can't tell you, but Jack Ryan was one of them.

CROWS is a remotely controlled gun. The first group of 35 remotely-operated weapons for mounting on top of Humvees arrived in Iraq recently and the systems were divided among military police, Special Forces, infantry and transportation units.

The Common Remotely Operated Weapon Station, or CROWS as they are known, provide crews the ability to locate, identify and engage targets with better accuracy and improved range, while keeping the gunner inside, protected by the vehicle's up-armor.

The technology used on the CROWS is a variation of the remote-controlled crew-served weapons system already used on combat vehicles like the Bradley fighting vehicle and the M1A1 Abrams tank.

"We will be fielding, in the next two years, over 300 systems," said Picatinny's Maj. Frank Lozano, the assistant product manager for the CROWS project on Life Sustainment Area Anaconda.

At LSA Anaconda, four CROWS were issued to 2nd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, from Ar Ramadi and the 155th Brigade Combat Team on Forward Operating Base Kalsu. Prototypes were installed on vehicles belonging to the 42nd Military Police Brigade in December, Lozano said.

Since then, more CROWS have been installed, bringing the total up to nine systems serving troops at LSA Anaconda.

Presently in Iraq, CROWS are only assembled and fielded at LSA Anaconda. Crews are issued the system there and receive training on how to operate it, said Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Januchowski, the project's training developer.

The nearly \$200,000 system is designed to replace the turret gunner on Humvees to improve combat effectiveness, Lozano said.

CROWS allows Soldiers to operate successfully from within the safety of the Humvee's

armor, without being exposed to the threat of improvised explosive devices and small-arms fire.

“The important thing is increased survivability and increased lethality,” Lozano said.

The system incorporates a 15-inch color monitor with live video from cameras in the daytime and thermal imaging cameras in darkness.

Both cameras use a laser range finder, which allows the gunner to zoom on targets, lock onto them and maintain that lock accurately while the vehicle is in motion. The camera and the weapon can be used together or separately.

The camera allows the gunner to look one way with the weapon pointed another. This feature becomes particularly useful when observing suspicious subjects from a distance, Lozano said, adding that way people are not scared off by a weapon pointed at them.

The gun itself is controlled by a joystick which gives the gunner 100-percent functionality, allowing the operator to control the weapon with just one hand. The weapon can be aimed up to 60 degrees above and 20 degrees below in front of the vehicle and can turn a full 360 degrees, allowing the gunner to see almost any threat, no matter where it is located in relation to the vehicle.

With all the features used properly, the weapon can be used at 98-percent accuracy while the vehicle is in motion and the enemy on the run.

“The weapon is smart enough to know your movement, the earth’s movement and the enemy’s movements,” said Lozano.

CROWS is compatible with the M-2 .50-caliber machine gun, M-240B medium machine gun, Mk 19 automatic grenade launcher and the M-249 squad automatic weapon. The weapons operate off of a larger ammunition supply than that of the standard crew-served weapons, Lozano said. He said with larger combat loads, the weapon is reloaded less, keeping the crew inside the vehicle.

The system keeps gunners like Sgt. Darrin Hill, 98th Cavalry, 155th Brigade Combat Team, out of the turret where he had spent his days since being deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

“I think it’s a great system. For one, it gets me out of the turret; it gets (me) out of the kill zone,” Hill said. “I feel privileged to be able to learn how to use it.”

He wasn't at LSA Anaconda, but somewhere in the area at a FOB. I called him on Friday to say goodbye and his phone cut out in the middle of the conversation. Since Mama says I can have a M1A, I'll wait for him to get home to buy one for me in Arkansas, it will be fully equipped and we'll have plenty of 20-round magazines. I don't know that I

can even pick it up, but I'm old and he gets all of my guns when I'm gone. We discussed it and decided on 1. M1A Standard Model, California illegal; and 2. Mini-14, basically the same gun in .223. Then I'll lay a guilt trip on the wife to get a 590A1. After that, I'll give her my Nazi .32 auto, YES it's real, and I'll talk her into a M1911 for me. Assuming I live that long.

In order to understand why George would get Condie to just tell the Jews to 'knock it off', I did a little research. The US Department of State is a bundle of info:

First US Aircraft Hijacked, May 1, 1961: Puerto Rican born Antuilo Ramierez Ortiz forced at gunpoint a National Airlines plane to fly to Havana, Cuba, where he was given asylum.

Ambassador to Guatemala Assassinated, August 28, 1968: US Ambassador to Guatemala John Gordon Mein was murdered by a rebel faction when gunmen forced his official car off the road in Guatemala City and raked the vehicle with gunfire.

Ambassador to Japan Attacked, July 30, 1969: US Ambassador to Japan A.H. Meyer was attacked by a knife-wielding Japanese citizen.

Ambassador to Brazil Kidnapped, September 3, 1969: US Ambassador to Brazil Charles Burke Elbrick was kidnapped by the Marxist revolutionary group MR-8.

Attack on the Munich Airport, February 10, 1970: Three terrorists attacked El Al passengers in a bus at the Munich Airport with guns and grenades. One passenger was killed and 11 were injured. All three terrorists were captured by airport police. The Action Organization for the Liberation of Palestine and the Popular Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine claimed responsibility for the attack.

US Agency for International Development Adviser Kidnapped, July 31, 1970: In Montevideo, Uruguay, the Tupamaros terrorist group kidnapped AID Police adviser Dan Mitri-one; his body was found on August 10.

"Bloody Friday," July 21, 1972: An Irish Republican Army (IRA) bomb attacks killed eleven people and injure 130 in Belfast, Northern Ireland. Ten days later, three IRA car bomb attacks in the village of Claudy left six dead.

Munich Olympic Massacre, September 5, 1972: Eight Palestinian "Black September" terrorists seized eleven Israeli athletes in the Olympic Village in Munich, West Germany. In a bungled rescue attempt by West German authorities, nine of the hostages and five terrorists were killed.

Ambassador to Sudan Assassinated, March 2, 1973: US Ambassador to Sudan Cleo A. Noel and other diplomats were assassinated at the Saudi Arabian Embassy in Khartoum by members of the Black September organization.

Consul General in Mexico Kidnapped, May 4, 1973: US Consul General in Guadalajara Terrence Leonhardy was kidnapped by members of the People's Revolutionary Armed Forces.

Attack and Hijacking at the Rome Airport, December 17, 1973: Five terrorists pulled weapons from their luggage in the terminal lounge at the Rome airport, killing two persons. They then attacked a Pan American 707 bound for Beirut and Tehran, destroying it with incendiary grenades and killing 29 persons, including 4 senior Moroccan officials and 14 American employees of ARAMCO. They then herded 5 Italian hostages into a Lufthansa airliner and killed an Italian customs agent as he tried to escape, after which they forced the pilot to fly to Beirut. After Lebanese authorities refused to let the plane land, it landed in Athens, where the terrorists demanded the release of 2 Arab terrorists. In order to make Greek authorities comply with their demands, the terrorists killed a hostage and threw his body onto the tarmac. The plane then flew to Damascus, where it stopped for two hours to obtain fuel and food. It then flew to Kuwait, where the terrorists released their hostages in return for passage to an unknown destination. The Palestine Liberation Organization disavowed the attack, and no group claimed responsibility for it.

Ambassador to Cyprus Assassinated, August 19, 1974: US Ambassador to Cyprus Rodger P. Davies and his Greek Cypriot secretary were shot and killed by snipers during a demonstration outside the US Embassy in Nicosia.

Domestic Terrorism, January 27-29, 1975: Puerto Rican nationalists bombed a Wall Street bar, killing four and injuring 60; two days later, the Weather Underground claims responsibility for an explosion in a bathroom at the US Department of State in Washington.

Entebbe Hostage Crisis, June 27, 1976: Members of the Baader-Meinhof Group and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) seized an Air France airliner and its 258 passengers. They forced the plane to land in Uganda. On July 3 Israeli commandos successfully rescued the passengers.

Assassination of Former Chilean Diplomat, September 21, 1976: Exiled Chilean Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier was killed by a car-bomb in Washington.

Kidnapping of Italian Prime Minister, March 16, 1978: Premier Aldo Moro was seized by the Red Brigade and assassinated 55 days later.

Ambassador to Afghanistan Assassinated, February 14, 1979: Four Afghans kidnapped US Ambassador Adolph Dubs in Kabul and demanded the release of various "religious figures." Dubs was killed, along with four alleged terrorists, when Afghan police stormed the hotel room where he was being held.

Iran Hostage Crisis, November 4, 1979: After President Carter agreed to admit the Shah of Iran into the US; Iranian radicals seized the US Embassy in Tehran and took 66 American diplomats hostage. Thirteen hostages were soon released, but the remaining

53 were held until their release on January 20, 1981.

Grand Mosque Seizure, November 20, 1979: 200 Islamic terrorists seized the Grand Mosque in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, taking hundreds of pilgrims' hostage. Saudi and French security forces retook the shrine after an intense battle in which some 250 people were killed and 600 wounded.

US Installation Bombing, August 31, 1981: The Red Army exploded a bomb at the US Air Force Base at Ramstein, West Germany.

Assassination of Egyptian President, October 6, 1981: Soldiers who were secretly members of the Takfir Wal-Hajira sect attacked and killed Egyptian President Anwar Sadat during a troop review.

Murder of Missionaries, December 4, 1981: Three American nuns and one lay missionary were found murdered outside San Salvador, El Salvador. They were killed by members of the National Guard, and the killers are currently in prison.

Assassination of Lebanese President, September 14, 1982: President Bashir Gemayel was assassinated by a car bomb parked outside his party's Beirut headquarters.

Colombian Hostage-taking, April 8, 1983: A US citizen was seized by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and held for ransom.

Bombing of US Embassy in Beirut, April 18, 1983: Sixty-three people, including the CIA's Middle East director, were killed and 120 were injured in a 400-pound suicide truck-bomb attack on the US Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon. The Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility.

Naval Officer Assassinated in El Salvador, May 25, 1983: A US Navy officer was assassinated by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front.

North Korean Hit Squad, October 9, 1983: North Korean agents blew up a delegation from South Korea in Rangoon, Burma, killing 21 persons and injuring 48.

Bombing of Marine Barracks, Beirut, October 23, 1983: Simultaneous suicide truck-bomb attacks were made on American and French compounds in Beirut, Lebanon. A 12,000-pound bomb destroyed the US compound, killing 242 Americans, while 58 French troops were killed when a 400-pound device destroyed a French base. Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility. They're now called Hezbollah!

Naval Officer Assassinated in Greece, November 15, 1983: A US Navy officer was shot by the November 17 terrorist group in Athens, Greece, while his car was stopped at a traffic light.

Kidnapping of Embassy Official, March 16, 1984: The Islamic Jihad kidnapped and later

murdered Political Officer William Buckley in Beirut, Lebanon. Other US citizens not connected to the US government were seized over a succeeding two-year period.

Restaurant Bombing in Spain, April 12, 1984: Eighteen US servicemen were killed and 83 people were injured in a bomb attack on a restaurant near a US Air Force Base in Torrejon, Spain.

Temple Seizure, June 5, 1984: Sikh terrorists seized the Golden Temple in Amritsar, India. One hundred people died when Indian security forces retook the Sikh holy shrine.

Assassination of Indian Prime Minister, October 31, 1984: Premier Indira Gandhi was shot to death by members of her security force.

Kidnapping of US Officials in Mexico, February 7, 1985: Under the orders of narcotraf-ficker Rafael Caro Quintero, Drug Enforcement Administration agent Enrique Camarena Salazar and his pilot were kidnapped, tortured and executed.

TWA Hijacking, June 14, 1985: A Trans-World Airlines flight was hijacked en route to Rome from Athens by two Lebanese Hezbollah terrorists and forced to fly to Beirut. The eight crew members and 145 passengers were held for seventeen days, during which one American hostage, a US Navy sailor, was murdered. After being flown twice to Al-giers, the aircraft was returned to Beirut after Israel released 435 Lebanese and Pales-tinian prisoners.

Attack on a Restaurant in El Salvador, June 19, 1985: Members of the FMLN (Farabun-do Marti National Liberation Front) fired on a restaurant in the Zona Rosa district of San Salvador, killing four Marine Security Guards assigned to the US Embassy and nine Salvadorian civilians.

Air India Bombing, June 23, 1985: A bomb destroyed an Air India Boeing 747 over the Atlantic, killing all 329 people aboard. Both Sikh and Kashmiri terrorists were blamed for the attack. Two cargo handlers were killed at Tokyo airport, Japan, when another Sikh bomb exploded in an Air Canada aircraft en route to India.

Soviet Diplomats Kidnapped, September 30, 1985: In Beirut, Lebanon, Sunni terrorists kidnapped four Soviet diplomats. One was killed but three were later released.

Achille Lauro Hijacking, October 7, 1985: Four Palestinian Liberation Front terrorists seized the Italian cruise liner in the eastern Mediterranean Sea, taking more than 700 hostages. One US passenger was murdered before the Egyptian government offered the terrorists safe haven in return for the hostages' freedom.

Egyptian Airliner Hijacking, November 23, 1985: An EgyptAir airplane bound from Ath-ens to Malta and carrying several US citizens was hijacked by the Abu Nidal Group.

Airport Attacks in Rome and Vienna, December 27, 1985: Four gunmen belonging to

the Abu Nidal Organization attacked the El Al and Trans World Airlines ticket counters at Rome's Leonardo da Vinci Airport with grenades and automatic rifles. Thirteen persons were killed and 75 were wounded before Italian police and Israeli security guards killed three of the gunmen and captured the fourth. Three more Abu Nidal gunmen attacked the El Al ticket counter at Vienna's Schwechat Airport, killing three persons and wounding 30. Austrian police killed one of the gunmen and captured the others.

Aircraft Bombing in Greece, March 30, 1986: A Palestinian splinter group detonated a bomb as TWA Flight 840 approached Athens airport, killing four US citizens.

Berlin Discothèque Bombing, April 5, 1986: Two US soldiers were killed and 79 American servicemen were injured in a Libyan bomb attack on a nightclub in West Berlin, West Germany. In retaliation US military jets bombed targets in and around Tripoli and Benghazi.

Kimpo Airport Bombing, September 14, 1986: North Korean agents detonated an explosive device at Seoul's Kimpo airport, killing 5 persons and injuring 29 others.

Bus Attack, April 24, 1987: Sixteen US servicemen riding in a Greek Air Force bus near Athens were injured in an apparent bombing attack, carried out by the revolutionary organization known as November 17.

Downing of Airliner, November 29, 1987: North Korean agents planted a bomb aboard Korean Air Lines Flight 858, which subsequently crashed into the Indian Ocean.

Servicemen's Bar Attack, December 26, 1987: Catalan separatists bombed a Barcelona bar frequented by US servicemen, resulting in the death of one US citizen.

Kidnapping of William Higgins, February 17, 1988: US Marine Corps Lieutenant Colonel W. Higgins was kidnapped and murdered by the Iranian-backed Hezbollah group while serving with the United Nations Truce Supervisory Organization (UNTSO) in southern Lebanon.

Naples USO Attack, April 14, 1988: The Organization of Jihad Brigades exploded a car-bomb outside a USO Club in Naples, Italy, killing one US sailor.

Attack on US Diplomat in Greece, June 28, 1988: The Defense Attaché of the US Embassy in Greece was killed when a car-bomb was detonated outside his home in Athens.

Pan Am 103 Bombing, December 21, 1988: Pan American Airlines Flight 103 was blown up over Lockerbie, Scotland, by a bomb believed to have been placed on the aircraft by Libyan terrorists in Frankfurt, West Germany. All 259 people on board were killed.

Assassination of US Army Officer, April 21, 1989: The New People's Army (NPA) as-

sassinated Colonel James Rowe in Manila. The NPA also assassinated two US government defense contractors in September.

Bombing of UTA Flight 772, September 19, 1989: A bomb explosion destroyed UTA Flight 772 over the Sahara Desert in southern Niger during a flight from Brazzaville to Paris. All 170 persons aboard were killed. Six Libyans were later found guilty in absentia and sentenced to life imprisonment.

Assassination of German Bank Chairman, November 30, 1989: The Red Army Faction assassinated Deutsche Bank Chairman Alfred Herrhausen in Frankfurt.

US Embassy Bombed in Peru, January 15, 1990: The Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement bombed the US Embassy in Lima, Peru.

US Soldiers Assassinated in the Philippines, May 13, 1990: The New People's Army (NPA) killed two US Air Force personnel near Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines.

Attempted Iraqi Attacks on US Posts, January 18-19, 1991: Iraqi agents planted bombs at the US Ambassador to Indonesia's home residence and at the USIS library in Manila.

Sniper Attack on the US Embassy in Bonn, February 13, 1991: Three Red Army Faction members fired automatic rifles from across the Rhine River at the US Embassy Chancery. No one was hurt.

Assassination of former Indian Prime Minister, May 21, 1991: A female member of the LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) killed herself, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, and 16 others by detonating an explosive vest after presenting a garland of flowers to the former Prime Minister during an election rally in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu.

Kidnapping of US Businessmen in the Philippines, January 17-21, 1992: A senior official of the corporation Philippine Geothermal was kidnapped in Manila by the Red Scorpion Group, and two US businessmen were seized independently by the National Liberation Army and by Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).

Bombing of the Israeli Embassy in Argentina, March 17, 1992: Hezbollah claimed responsibility for a blast that leveled the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires, Argentina, causing the deaths of 29 and wounding 242.

Kidnappings of US Citizens in Colombia, January 31, 1993: Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) terrorists kidnapped three US missionaries.

World Trade Center Bombing, February 26, 1993: The World Trade Center in New York City was badly damaged when a car bomb planted by Islamic terrorists exploded in an underground garage. The bomb left 6 people dead and 1,000 injured. The men carrying out the attack were followers of Umar Abd al-Rahman, an Egyptian cleric who preached in the New York City area.

Attempted Assassination of President Bush by Iraqi Agents, April 14, 1993: The Iraqi intelligence service attempted to assassinate former US President George Bush during a visit to Kuwait. In retaliation, the US launched a cruise missile attack 2 months later on the Iraqi capital Baghdad.

Hebron Massacre, February 25, 1994: Jewish right-wing extremist and US citizen Baruch Goldstein machine-gunned Moslem worshippers at a mosque in West Bank town of Hebron, killing 29 and wounding about 150.

FARC Hostage-taking, September 23, 1994: FARC rebels kidnapped US citizen Thomas Hargrove in Colombia.

Air France Hijacking, December 24, 1994: Members of the Armed Islamic Group seized an Air France Flight to Algeria. The four terrorists were killed during a rescue effort.

Attack on US Diplomats in Pakistan, March 8, 1995: Two unidentified gunmen killed two US diplomats and wounded a third in Karachi, Pakistan.

Tokyo Subway Station Attack, March 20, 1995: Twelve persons were killed and 5,700 were injured in a Sarin nerve gas attack on a crowded subway station in the center of Tokyo, Japan. A similar attack occurred nearly simultaneously in the Yokohama subway system. The Aum Shinri-kyo cult was blamed for the attacks.

Bombing of the Federal Building in Oklahoma City, April 19, 1995: Right-wing extremists Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols destroyed the Federal Building in Oklahoma City with a massive truck bomb that killed 166 and injured hundreds more in what was up to then the largest terrorist attack on American soil.

Kashmiri Hostage-taking, July 4, 1995: In India six foreigners, including two US citizens, were taken hostage by Al-Faran, a Kashmiri separatist group. One non-US hostage was later found beheaded.

Jerusalem Bus Attack, August 21, 1995: HAMAS claimed responsibility for the detonation of a bomb that killed 6 and injured over 100 persons, including several US citizens.

Attack on US Embassy in Moscow, September 13, 1995: A rocket-propelled grenade was fired through the window of the US Embassy in Moscow, ostensibly in retaliation for US strikes on Serb positions in Bosnia.

Saudi Military Installation Attack, November 13, 1995: The Islamic Movement of Change planted a bomb in a Riyadh military compound that killed one US citizen, several foreign national employees of the US government, and over 40 others.

Egyptian Embassy Attack, November 19, 1995: A suicide bomber drove a vehicle into the Egyptian Embassy compound in Islamabad, Pakistan, killing at least 16 and injuring

60 persons. Three militant Islamic groups claimed responsibility.

Papuan Hostage Abduction, January 8, 1996: In Indonesia, 200 Free Papua Movement (OPM) guerrillas abducted 26 individuals in the Lorenta nature preserve, Irian Jaya Province. Indonesian Special Forces members rescued the remaining nine hostages on May 15.

Kidnapping in Colombia, January 19, 1996: Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) guerrillas kidnapped a US citizen and demanded a \$1 million ransom. The hostage was released on May 22.

Tamil Tigers Attack, January 31, 1996: Members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rammed an explosives-laden truck into the Central Bank in the heart of downtown Colombo, Sri Lanka, killing 90 civilians and injuring more than 1,400 others, including 2 US citizens.

IRA Bombing, February 9, 1996: An Irish Republican Army (IRA) bomb detonated in London, killing 2 persons and wounding more than 100 others, including 2 US citizens.

Athens Embassy Attack, February 15, 1996: Unidentified assailants fired a rocket at the US Embassy compound in Athens, causing minor damage to three diplomatic vehicles and some surrounding buildings. Circumstances of the attack suggested it was an operation carried out by the 17 November group.

ELN Kidnapping, February 16, 1996: Six alleged National Liberation Army (ELN) guerrillas kidnapped a US citizen in Colombia. After 9 months, the hostage was released.

HAMAS Bus Attack, February 26, 1996: In Jerusalem, a suicide bomber blew up a bus, killing 26 persons, including three US citizens, and injuring some 80 persons, including three other US citizens.

Dizengoff Center Bombing, March 4, 1996: HAMAS and the Palestine Islamic Jihad (PIJ) both claimed responsibility for a bombing outside of Tel Aviv's largest shopping mall that killed 20 persons and injured 75 others, including 2 US citizens.

West Bank Attack, May 13, 1996: Arab gunmen opened fire on a bus and a group of Yeshiva students near the Bet El settlement, killing a dual US/Israeli citizen and wounding three Israelis. No one claimed responsibility for the attack, but HAMAS was suspected.

AID Worker Abduction, May 31, 1996: A gang of former Contra guerrillas kidnapped a US employee of the Agency for International Development (AID) who was assisting with election preparations in rural northern Nicaragua. She was released unharmed the next day after members of the international commission overseeing the preparations intervened.

Zekharya Attack, June 9, 1996: Unidentified gunmen opened fire on a car near Zekharya, killing a dual US/Israeli citizen and an Israeli. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) was suspected.

Manchester Truck Bombing, June 15, 1996: An IRA truck bomb detonated at a Manchester shopping center, wounding 206 persons, including two German tourists, and caused extensive property damage.

Khobar Towers Bombing, June 25, 1996: A fuel truck carrying a bomb exploded outside the US military's Khobar Towers housing facility in Dhahran, killing 19 US military personnel and wounding 515 persons, including 240 US personnel. Several groups claimed responsibility for the attack.

ETA Bombing, July 20, 1996: A bomb exploded at Tarragona International Airport in Reus, Spain, wounding 35 persons, including British and Irish tourists. The Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA) organization was suspected.

Bombing of Archbishop of Oran, August 1, 1996: A bomb exploded at the home of the French Archbishop of Oran, killing him and his chauffeur. The attack occurred after the Archbishop's meeting with the French Foreign Minister. The Algerian Armed Islamic Group (GIA) is suspected.

Sudanese Rebel Kidnapping, August 17, 1996: Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) rebels kidnapped six missionaries in Mapourdit, including a US citizen, an Italian, three Australians, and a Sudanese. The SPLA released the hostages 11 days later.

PUK Kidnapping, September 13, 1996: In Iraq, Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) militants kidnapped four French workers for Pharmaciens Sans Frontieres, a Canadian United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) official, and two Iraqis.

Assassination of South Korean Consul, October 1, 1996: In Vladivostok, Russia, assailants attacked and killed a South Korean consul near his home. No one claimed responsibility, but South Korean authorities believed that the attack was carried out by professionals and that the assailants were North Koreans. North Korean officials denied the country's involvement in the attack.

Red Cross Worker Kidnappings, November 1, 1996: In Sudan a breakaway group from the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) kidnapped three International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) workers, including a US citizen, an Australian, and a Kenyan. On 9 December the rebels released the hostages in exchange for ICRC supplies and a health survey for their camp.

Paris Subway Explosion, December 3, 1996: A bomb exploded aboard a Paris subway train as it arrived at the Port Royal station, killing two French nationals, a Moroccan, and a Canadian, and injuring 86 persons. Among those injured were one US citizen and a Canadian. No one claimed responsibility for the attack, but Algerian extremists are sus-

pected.

Abduction of US. Citizen by FARC, December 11, 1996: Five armed men claiming to be members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) kidnapped and later killed a US geologist at a methane gas exploration site in La Guajira Department.

Tupac Amaru Seizure of Diplomats, December 17, 1996: Twenty-three members of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) took several hundred people hostage at a party given at the Japanese Ambassador's residence in Lima, Peru. Among the hostages were several US officials, foreign ambassadors and other diplomats, Peruvian Government officials, and Japanese businessmen. The group demanded the release of all MRTA members in prison and safe passage for them and the hostage takers. The terrorists released most of the hostages in December but held 81 Peruvians and Japanese citizens for several months.

Egyptian Letter Bombs, January 2-13, 1997: A series of letter bombs with Alexandria, Egypt, postmarks were discovered at Al-Hayat newspaper bureaus in Washington, New York City, London, and Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Three similar devices, also postmarked in Egypt, were found at a prison facility in Leavenworth, Kansas. Bomb disposal experts defused all the devices, but one detonated at the Al-Hayat office in London, injuring two security guards and causing minor damage.

Tajik Hostage Abductions, February 4-17, 1997: Near Komsomolabad, Tajikistan, a paramilitary group led by Bakhrom Sodirov abducted four United Nations (UN) military observers. The victims included two Swiss, one Austrian, one Ukrainian, and their Tajik interpreter. The kidnapers demanded safe passage for their supporters from Afghanistan to Tajikistan. In four separate incidents occurring between Dushanbe and Garm, Bakhrom Sodirov and his group kidnapped two International Committee for the Red Cross members, four Russian journalists and their Tajik driver, four UNHCR members, and the Tajik Security Minister, Saidamir Zukhurov.

Venezuelan Abduction, February 14, 1997: Six armed Colombian guerrillas kidnapped a US oil engineer and his Venezuelan pilot in Apure, Venezuela. The kidnapers released the Venezuelan pilot on 22 February. According to authorities, the FARC is responsible for the kidnapping.

Empire State Building Sniper Attack, February 23, 1997: A Palestinian gunman opened fire on tourists at an observation deck atop the Empire State Building in New York City, killing a Danish national and wounding visitors from the United States, Argentina, Switzerland, and France before turning the gun on himself. A handwritten note carried by the gunman claimed this was a punishment attack against the "enemies of Palestine."

ELN Kidnapping, February 24, 1997: National Liberation Army (ELN) guerrillas kidnapped a US citizen employed by a Las Vegas gold corporation who was scouting a gold mining operation in Colombia. The ELN demanded a ransom of \$2.5 million.

FARC Kidnapping, March 7, 1997: FARC guerrillas kidnapped a US mining employee and his Colombian colleague who were searching for gold in Colombia. On November 16, the rebels released the two hostages after receiving a \$50,000 ransom.

Hotel Nacional Bombing, July 12, 1997: A bomb exploded at the Hotel Nacional in Havana, injuring three persons and causing minor damage. A previously unknown group calling itself the Military Liberation Union claimed responsibility.

Israeli Shopping Mall Bombing, September 4, 1997: Three suicide bombers of HAMAS detonated bombs in the Ben Yehuda shopping mall in Jerusalem, killing eight persons, including the bombers, and wounding nearly 200 others. A dual US/Israeli citizen was among the dead, and 7 US citizens were wounded.

OAS Abductions, October 23, 1997: In Colombia ELN rebels kidnapped two foreign members of the Organization of American States (OAS) and a Colombian human rights official at a roadblock. The ELN claimed that the kidnapping was intended "to show the international community that the elections in Colombia are a farce."

Yemeni Kidnappings, October 30, 1997: Al-Sha'if tribesmen kidnapped a US businessman near Sanaa. The tribesmen sought the release of two fellow tribesmen who were arrested on smuggling charges and several public works projects they claim the government promised them. They released the hostage on November 27.

Murder of US Businessmen in Pakistan, November 12, 1997: Two unidentified gunmen shot to death four US auditors from Union Texas Petroleum Corporation and their Pakistani driver after they drove away from the Sheraton Hotel in Karachi. The Islami Inqilabi Council, or Islamic Revolutionary Council, claimed responsibility in a call to the US Consulate in Karachi. In a letter to Pakistani newspapers, the Aimal Khufia Action Committee also claimed responsibility.

Tourist Killings in Egypt, November 17, 1997: Al-Gama'at al-Islamiyya (IG) gunmen shot and killed 58 tourists and four Egyptians and wounded 26 others at the Hatshepsut Temple in the Valley of the Kings near Luxor. Thirty-four Swiss, eight Japanese, five Germans, four Britons, one French, one Colombian, a dual Bulgarian/British citizen, and four unidentified persons were among the dead. Twelve Swiss, two Japanese, two Germans, one French, and nine Egyptians were among the wounded.

UN Observer Abductions, February 19, 1998: Armed supporters of late Georgian president Zviad Gamsakhurdia abducted four UN military observers from Sweden, Uruguay, and the Czech Republic.

FARC Abduction, March 21-23, 1998: FARC rebels kidnapped a US citizen in Sabaneta, Colombia. FARC members also killed three persons, wounded 14, and kidnapped at least 27 others at a roadblock near Bogota. Four US citizens and one Italian were among those kidnapped, as well as the acting president of the National Electoral Council (CNE) and his wife.

Somali Hostage-takings, April 15, 1998: Somali militiamen abducted nine Red Cross and Red Crescent workers at an airstrip north of Mogadishu. The hostages included a US citizen, a German, a Belgian, a French, a Norwegian, two Swiss, and one Somali. The gunmen were members of a sub-clan loyal to Ali Mahdi Mohammed, who controlled the northern section of the capital.

IRA Bombing, Banbridge, August 1, 1998: A 500-pound car bomb planted by the Real IRA exploded outside a shoe store in Banbridge, North Ireland, injuring 35 persons and damaging at least 200 homes.

US Embassy Bombings in East Africa, August 7, 1998: A bomb exploded at the rear entrance of the US Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya, killing 12 US citizens, 32 Foreign Service Nationals (FSNs), and 247 Kenyan citizens. Approximately 5,000 Kenyans, 6 US citizens, and 13 FSNs were injured. The US Embassy building sustained extensive structural damage. Almost simultaneously, a bomb detonated outside the US Embassy in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, killing 7 FSNs and 3 Tanzanian citizens, and injuring 1 US citizen and 76 Tanzanians. The explosion caused major structural damage to the US Embassy facility. The US Government held Usama Bin Laden responsible.

IRA Bombing, Omagh, August 15, 1998: A 500-pound car bomb planted by the Real IRA exploded outside a local courthouse in the central shopping district of Omagh, Northern Ireland, killing 29 persons and injuring over 330.

Colombian Pipeline Bombing, October 18, 1998: A National Liberation Army (ELN) planted bomb exploded on the Orensa pipeline in Antioquia Department, killing approximately 71 persons and injuring at least 100 others. The pipeline is jointly owned by the Colombia State Oil Company Ecopetrol and a consortium including US, French, British, and Canadian companies.

Armed Kidnapping in Colombia, November 15, 1998: Armed assailants followed a US businessman and his family home in Cundinamarca Department and kidnapped his 11-year-old son after stealing money, jewelry, one automobile, and two cell phones. The kidnappers demanded \$1 million in ransom. On January 21, 1999, the kidnappers released the boy.

Angolan Aircraft Downing, January 2, 1999: A UN plane carrying one US citizen, four Angolans, two Philippine nationals and one Namibian was shot down, according to a UN official. No deaths or injuries were reported. Angolan authorities blamed the attack on National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) rebels. UNITA officials denied shooting down the plane.

Ugandan Rebel Attack, February 14, 1999: A pipe bomb exploded inside a bar, killing five persons and injuring 35 others. One Ethiopian and four Ugandan nationals died in the blast, and one US citizen working for USAID, two Swiss nationals, one Pakistani, one Ethiopian, and 27 Ugandans were injured. Ugandan authorities blamed the attack

on the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF).

Greek Embassy Seizure, February 16, 1999: Kurdish protesters stormed and occupied the Greek Embassy in Vienna, taking the Greek Ambassador and six other persons hostage. Several hours later the protesters released the hostages and left the Embassy. The attack followed the Turkish Government's announcement of the successful capture of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) leader Abdullah Ocalan. Kurds also occupied Kenyan, Israeli, and other Greek diplomatic facilities in France, Holland, Switzerland, Britain, and Germany over the following days.

FARC Kidnappings, February 25, 1999: FARC kidnapped three US citizens working for the Hawaii-based Pacific Cultural Conservancy International. On March 4, the bodies of the three victims were found in Venezuela.

Hutu Abductions, March 1, 1999: 150 armed Hutu rebels attacked three tourist camps in Uganda, killed four Ugandans, and abducted three US citizens, six Britons, three New Zealanders, two Danish citizens, one Australian, and one Canadian national. Two of the US citizens and six of the other hostages were subsequently killed by their abductors.

ELN Hostage-taking, March 23, 1999: Armed guerrillas kidnapped a US citizen in Boyaca, Colombia. The National Liberation Army (ELN) claimed responsibility and demanded \$400,000 ransom. On 20 July, ELN rebels released the hostage unharmed following a ransom payment of \$48,000.

ELN Hostage-taking, May 30, 1999: In Cali, Colombia, armed ELN militants attacked a church in the neighborhood of Ciudad Jardin, kidnapping 160 persons, including six US citizens and one French national. The rebels released approximately 80 persons, including three US citizens, later that day.

Shell Platform Bombing, June 27, 1999: In Port Harcourt, Nigeria, armed youths stormed a Shell oil platform, kidnapping one US citizen, one Nigerian national, and one Australian citizen, and causing undetermined damage. A group calling itself "Enough is Enough in the Niger River" claimed responsibility. Further seizures of oil facilities followed.

AFRC Kidnappings, August 4, 1999: An Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) faction kidnapped 33 UN representatives near Occra Hills, Sierra Leone. The hostages included one US citizen, five British soldiers, one Canadian citizen, one representative from Ghana, one military officer from Russia, one officer from Kyrgyzstan, one officer from Zambia, one officer from Malaysia, a local Bishop, two UN officials, two local journalists, and 16 Sierra Leonean nationals.

Burmese Embassy Seizure, October 1, 1999: Burmese dissidents seized the Burmese Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand, taking 89 persons hostage, including one US citizen.

PLA Kidnapping, December 23, 1999: Colombian People's Liberation Army (PLA) forc-

es kidnapped a US citizen in an unsuccessful ransoming effort.

Indian Airlines Airbus Hijacking, December 24, 1999: Five militants hijacked a flight bound from Katmandu to New Delhi carrying 189 people. The plane and its passengers were released unharmed on December 31.

Car bombing in Spain, January 27, 2000: Police officials reported unidentified individuals set fire to a Citroen car dealership in Iturreta, causing extensive damage to the building and destroying 12 vehicles. The attack bore the hallmark of the Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA).

RUF Attacks on U.N. Mission Personnel, May 1, 2000: On 1 May in Makeni, Sierra Leone, Revolutionary United Front (RUF) militants kidnapped at least 20 members of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) and surrounded and opened fire on a UNAMSIL facility, according to press reports. The militants killed five UN soldiers in the attack. RUF militants kidnapped 300 UNAMSIL peacekeepers throughout the country, according to press reports. On 15 May in Foya, Liberia, the kidnapers released 139 hostages. On 28 May, on the Liberia and Sierra Leone border, armed militants released unharmed the last of the UN peacekeepers. In Freetown, according to press reports, armed militants ambushed two military vehicles carrying four journalists. A Spaniard and one US citizen were killed in a May 25 car bombing in Freetown for which the RUF was probably responsible. Suspected RUF rebels also kidnapped 21 Indian UN peacekeepers in Freetown on June 6. Additional attacks by RUF on foreign personnel followed.

Diplomatic Assassination in Greece, June 8, 2000: In Athens, Greece, two unidentified gunmen killed British Defense Attaché Stephen Saunders in an ambush. The Revolutionary Organization 17 November claimed responsibility.

ELN Kidnapping, June 27, 2000: In Bogota, Colombia, ELN militants kidnapped a 5-year-old US citizen and his Colombian mother, demanding an undisclosed ransom.

Kidnappings in Kyrgyzstan, August 12, 2000: In the Kara-Su Valley, the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan took four US citizens hostage. The Americans escaped on August 12.

Church Bombing in Tajikistan, October 1, 2000: Unidentified militants detonated two bombs in a Christian church in Dushanbe, killing seven persons and injuring 70 others. The church was founded by a Korean-born US citizen, and most of those killed and wounded were Korean. No one claimed responsibility.

Helicopter Hijacking, October 12, 2000: In Sucumbios Province, Ecuador, a group of armed kidnapers led by former members of defunct Colombian terrorist organization the Popular Liberation Army (EPL), took hostage 10 employees of Spanish energy consortium REPSOL. Those kidnapped included five US citizens, one Argentine, one Chilean, one New Zealander, and two French pilots who escaped four days later. On Janu-

ary 30, 2001, the kidnapers murdered American hostage Ronald Sander. The remaining hostages were released on February 23 following the payment of \$13 million in ransom by the oil companies.

Attack on USS Cole, October 12, 2000: In Aden, Yemen, a small dingy carrying explosives rammed the destroyer USS Cole, killing 17 sailors and injuring 39 others. Supporters of Usama Bin Laden were suspected.

Manila Bombing, December 30, 2000: A bomb exploded in a plaza across the street from the US Embassy in Manila, injuring nine persons. The Moro Islamic Liberation Front was likely responsible.

Srinagar Airport Attack and Assassination Attempt, January 17, 2001: In India, six members of the Lashkar-e-Tayyba militant group were killed when they attempted to seize a local airport. Members of Hizbul Mujaheddin fired two rifle grenades at Farooq Abdullah, Chief Minister for Jammu and Kashmir. Two persons were wounded in the unsuccessful assassination attempt.

BBC Studios Bombing, March 4, 2001: A car bomb exploded at midnight outside of the British Broadcasting Corporation's main production studios in London. One person was injured. British authorities suspected the Real IRA had planted the bomb.

Suicide Bombing in Israel, March 4, 2001: A suicide bomb attack in Netanya killed 3 persons and wounded 65. HAMAS later claimed responsibility.

ETA Bombing, March 9, 2001: Two policemen were killed by the explosion of a car bomb in Hernani, Spain.

Airliner Hijacking in Istanbul, March 15, 2001: Three Chechens hijacked a Russian airliner during a flight from Istanbul to Moscow and forced it to fly to Medina, Saudi Arabia. The plane carried 162 passengers and a crew of 12. After a 22-hour siege during which more than 40 passengers were released, Saudi security forces stormed the plane, killing a hijacker, a passenger, and a flight attendant.

Bus Stop Bombing, April 22, 2001: A member of HAMAS detonated a bomb he was carrying near a bus stop in Kfar Siva, Israel, killing one person and injuring 60.

Philippines Hostage Incident, May 27, 2001: Muslim Abu Sayyaf guerrillas seized 13 tourists and 3 staff members at a resort on Palawan Island and took their captives to Basilan Island. The captives included three US citizens: Guellermo Sobero and missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham. Philippine troops fought a series of battles with the guerrillas between June 1 and June 3 during which 9 hostages escaped and two were found dead. The guerrillas took additional hostages when they seized the hospital in the town of Lamitan. On June 12, Abu Sayyaf spokesman Abu Sabaya claimed that Sobero had been killed and beheaded; his body was found in October. The Burnhams

remained in captivity until June 2002.

Tel-Aviv Nightclub Bombing, June 1, 2001: HAMAS claimed responsibility for the suicide bombing of a popular Israeli nightclub that caused over 140 casualties.

HAMAS Restaurant Bombing, August 9, 2001: A HAMAS-planted bomb detonated in a Jerusalem pizza restaurant, killing 15 people and wounding more than 90. The Israeli response included occupation of Orient House, the Palestine Liberation Organization's political headquarters in East Jerusalem.

Suicide Bombing in Israel, September 9, 2001: The first suicide bombing carried out by an Israeli Arab killed 3 persons in Nahariya. HAMAS claimed responsibility.

Death of "the Lion of the Panjshir", September 9, 2001: Two suicide bombers fatally wounded Ahmed Shah Massoud, a leader of Afghanistan's Northern Alliance, which had opposed both the Soviet occupation and the post-Soviet Taliban government. The bombers posed as journalists and were apparently linked to al Qaeda. The Northern Alliance did not confirm Massoud's death until September 15.

Terrorist Attacks on US Homeland, September 11, 2001: Two hijacked airliners crashed into the twin towers of the World Trade Center. Soon thereafter, the Pentagon was struck by a third hijacked plane. A fourth hijacked plane, suspected to be bound for a high-profile target in Washington, crashed into a field in southern Pennsylvania. The attacks killed 3,025 US citizens and other nationals. President Bush and Cabinet officials indicated that Usama Bin Laden was the prime suspect and that they considered the United States in a state of war with international terrorism. In the aftermath of the attacks, the United States formed the Global Coalition Against Terrorism.

Attack on the Jammu and Kashmir Legislature, October 1, 2001: After a suicide car bomber forced the gate of the state legislature in Srinagar, two gunmen entered the building and held off police for seven hours before being killed. Forty persons died in the incident. Jaish-e-Muhammad claimed responsibility.

Anthrax Attacks, October-November 2001: On October 7 the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported that investigators had detected evidence that the deadly anthrax bacterium was present in the building where a Florida man who died of anthrax on October 5 had worked. Discovery of a second anthrax case triggered a major investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The two anthrax cases were the first to appear in the United States in 25 years. Anthrax subsequently appeared in mail received by television networks in New York and by the offices in Washington of Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle and other members of Congress. Attorney General John Ashcroft said in a briefing on October 16, "When people send anthrax through the mail to hurt people and invoke terror, it's a terrorist act."

Assassination of an Israeli Cabinet Minister, October 17, 2001: A Palestinian gunman assassinated Israeli Minister of Tourism Rehavam Zeevi in the Jerusalem hotel where

he was staying. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) claimed to have avenged the death of PFLP Mustafa Zubari.

Attack on a Church in Pakistan, October 28, 2001: Six masked gunmen shot up a church in Bahawalpur, Pakistan, killing 15 Pakistani Christians. No group claimed responsibility, although various militant Muslim groups were suspected.

Suicide Bombings in Jerusalem, December 1, 2001: Two suicide bombers attacked a Jerusalem shopping mall, killing 10 persons and wounding 170.

Suicide Bombing in Haifa, December 2, 2001: A suicide bomb attack aboard a bus in Haifa, Israel, killed 15 persons and wounded 40. HAMAS claimed responsibility for both this attack and those on December 1 to avenge the death of a HAMAS member at the hands of Israeli forces a week earlier.

Attack on the Indian Parliament, December 13, 2001: Five gunmen attacked the Indian Parliament in New Delhi shortly after it had adjourned. Before security forces killed them, the attackers killed 6 security personnel and a gardener. Indian officials blamed Lashkar-e-Tayyiba and demanded that Pakistan crack down on it and on other Muslim separatist groups in Kashmir.

Ambush on the West Bank, January 15, 2002: Palestinian militants fired on a vehicle in Beit Sahur, killing one passenger and wounding the other. The dead passenger claimed US and Israeli citizenship. The al-Aqsa Martyrs' Battalion claimed responsibility.

Shooting Incident in Israel, January 17, 2002: A Palestinian gunman killed 6 persons and wounded 25 in Hadera, Israel, before being killed by Israeli police. The al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades claimed responsibility as revenge for Israel's killing of a leading member of the group.

Drive-By Shooting at a US Consulate, January 22, 2002: Armed militants on motorcycles fired on the US Consulate in Calcutta, India, killing 5 Indian security personnel and wounding 13 others. The Harakat ul-Jihad-I-Islami and the Asif Raza Commandoes claimed responsibility. Indian police later killed two suspects, one of whom confessed to belonging to Lashkar-e-Tayyiba as he died.

Bomb Explosion in Kashmir, January 22, 2002: A bomb exploded in a crowded retail district in Jammu, Kashmir, killing one person and injuring nine. No group claimed responsibility.

Kidnapping of Daniel Pearl, January 23, 2002: Armed militants kidnapped Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl in Karachi, Pakistan. Pakistani authorities received a videotape on February 20 depicting Pearl's murder. His grave was found near Karachi on May 16. Pakistani authorities arrested four suspects. Ringleader Ahmad Omar Saeed Sheikh claimed to have organized Pearl's kidnapping to protest Pakistan's subservience to the United States, and had belonged to Jaish-e-Muhammad, an Islamic separatist

group in Kashmir. All four suspects were convicted on July 15. Saeed Sheikh was sentenced to death, the others to life imprisonment.

Suicide Bombing in Jerusalem, January 27, 2002: A suicide bomb attack in Jerusalem killed one other person and wounded 100. The incident was the first suicide bombing made by a Palestinian woman.

Suicide Bombing in the West Bank, February 16, 2002: A suicide bombing in an outdoor food court in Karmeil Shomron killed 4 persons and wounded 27. Two of the dead and two of the wounded were US citizens. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) claimed responsibility.

Suicide Bombing in the West Bank, March 7, 2002: A suicide bombing in a supermarket in the settlement of Ariel wounded 10 persons, one of whom was a US citizen. The PFLP claimed responsibility.

Suicide Bombing in Jerusalem, March 9, 2002: A suicide bombing in a Jerusalem restaurant killed 11 persons and wounded 52, one of whom was a US citizen. The al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades claimed responsibility.

Drive-By Shooting in Colombia, March 14, 2002: Gunmen on motorcycles shot and killed two US citizens who had come to Cali, Colombia, to negotiate the release of their father, who was a captive of the FARC. No group claimed responsibility.

Grenade Attack on a Church in Pakistan, March 17, 2002: Militants threw grenades into the Protestant International Church in Islamabad, Pakistan, during a service attended by diplomatic and local personnel. Five persons, two of them US citizens, were killed and 46 were wounded. The dead Americans were State Department employee Barbara Green and her daughter Kristen Wormsley. Thirteen US citizens were among the wounded. The Lashkar-e-Tayyiba group was suspected.

Car Bomb Explosion in Peru, March 20, 2002: A car bomb exploded at a shopping center near the US Embassy in Lima, Peru. Nine persons were killed and 32 wounded. The dead included two police officers and a teenager. Peruvian authorities suspected either the Shining Path rebels or the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement. The attack occurred 3 days before President George W. Bush visited Peru.

Suicide Bombing in Jerusalem, March 21, 2002: A suicide bombing in Jerusalem killed 3 persons and wounded 86 more, including 2 US citizens. The Palestinian Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility.

Suicide Bombing in Israel, March 27, 2002: A suicide bombing in a noted restaurant in Netanya, Israel, killed 22 persons and wounded 140. One of the dead was a US citizen. The Islamic Resistance Movement (HAMAS) claimed responsibility.

Temple Bombing in Kashmir, March 30, 2002: A bomb explosion at a Hindu temple in

Jammu, Kashmir, killed 10 persons. The Islamic Front claimed responsibility.

Suicide Bombing in the West Bank, March 31, 2002: A suicide bombing near an ambulance station in Efrat wounded four persons, including a US citizen. The al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades claimed responsibility.

Armed attack on Kashmir, April 10, 2002: Armed militants attacked a residence in Gando, Kashmir, killing five persons and wounding four. No group claimed responsibility.

Synagogue Bombing in Tunisia, April 11, 2002: A suicide bomber detonated a truck loaded with propane gas outside a historic synagogue in Djerba, Tunisia. The 16 dead included 11 Germans, one French citizen, and three Tunisians. Twenty-six German tourists were injured. The Islamic Army for the Liberation of the Holy Sites claimed responsibility.

Suicide Bombing in Jerusalem, April 12, 2002: A female suicide bomber killed 6 persons in Jerusalem and wounded 90 others. The al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades claimed responsibility.

Car Bombing in Pakistan, May 8, 2002: A car bomb exploded near a Pakistani navy shuttle bus in Karachi, killing 12 persons and wounding 19. Eleven of the dead and 11 of the wounded were French nationals. Al Qaeda was suspected of the attack.

Parade Bombing in Russia, May 9, 2002: A remotely-controlled bomb exploded near a May Day parade in Kaspiisk, Dagestan, killing 42 persons and wounding 150. Fourteen of the dead and 50 of the wounded were soldiers. Islamists linked to al Qaeda were suspected.

Attack on a Bus in India, May 14, 2002: Militants fired on a passenger bus in Kaluchak, Jammu, killing 7 persons. They then entered a military housing complex and killed 3 soldiers and 7 military dependents before they were killed. The al-Mansooran and Jamiat ul-Mujahedin claimed responsibility.

Bomb Attacks in Kashmir, May 17, 2002: A bomb explosion near a civil secretariat area in Srinagar, Kashmir, wounded 6 persons. In Jammu, a bomb exploded at a fire services headquarters, killing two and wounding 16. No group claimed responsibility for either attack.

Hostage Rescue Attempt in the Philippines, June 7, 2002: Philippine Army troops attacked Abu Sayyaf terrorists on Mindanao Island in an attempt to rescue US citizen Martin Burnham and his wife Gracia, who had been kidnapped more than a year ago. Burnham was killed but his wife, though wounded, was freed. A Filipino hostage was killed, as were four of the guerrillas. Seven soldiers were wounded.

Car Bombing in Pakistan, June 14, 2002: A car bomb exploded near the US Consulate and the Marriott Hotel in Karachi, Pakistan. Eleven persons were killed and 51 were

wounded, including one US and one Japanese citizen. Al Qaida and al-Qanin were suspected.

Suicide Bombing in Jerusalem, June 19, 2002: A suicide bombing at a bus stop in Jerusalem killed 6 persons and wounded 43, including 2 US citizens. The al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades claimed responsibility.

Suicide Bombing in Tel Aviv, July 17, 2002: Two suicide bombers attacked the old bus station in Tel Aviv, Israel, killing 5 persons and wounding 38. The dead included one Romanian and two Chinese; another Romanian was wounded. The Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility.

Bombing at the Hebrew University, July 31, 2002: A bomb hidden in a bag in the Frank Sinatra International Student Center of Jerusalem's Hebrew University killed 9 persons and wounded 87. The dead included 5 US citizens and 4 Israelis. The wounded included 4 US citizens, 2 Japanese, and 3 South Koreans. The Islamic Resistance Movement (HAMAS) claimed responsibility.

Suicide Bombing in Israel, August 4, 2002: A suicide bomb attack on a bus in Safed, Israel, killed 9 persons and wounded 50. Two of the dead were Philippine citizens; many of the wounded were soldiers returning from leave. HAMAS claimed responsibility.

Attack on a School in Pakistan, August 5, 2002: Gunmen attacked a Christian school attended by children of missionaries from around the world. Six persons (two security guards, a cook, a carpenter, a receptionist, and a private citizen) were killed and a Philippine citizen was wounded. A group called al-Intigami al-Pakistani claimed responsibility.

Attack on Pilgrims in Kashmir, August 6, 2002: Armed militants attacked a group of Hindu pilgrims with guns and grenades in Pahalgam, Kashmir. Nine persons were killed and 32 were wounded. The Lashkar-e-Tayyiba claimed responsibility.

Assassination in Kashmir, September 11, 2002: Gunmen killed Kashmir's Law Minister Mushtaq Ahmed Lone and six security guards in Tikipora. Lashkar-e-Tayyiga, Jamiat ul-Mujahedin, and Hizb ul-Mujahedin all claimed responsibility. Other militants attacked the residence of the Minister of Tourism with grenades, injuring four persons. No group claimed responsibility.

Ambush on the West Bank, September 18, 2002: Gunmen ambushed a vehicle on a road near Yahad, killing an Israeli and wounding a Romanian worker. The al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades claimed responsibility.

Suicide Bomb Attack in Israel, September 19, 2002: A suicide bomb attack on a bus in Tel Aviv killed 6 persons and wounded 52. One of the dead was a British subject. HAMAS claimed responsibility.

Attack on a French Tanker, October 6, 2002: An explosive-laden boat rammed the French oil tanker Limburg, which was anchored about 5 miles off al-Dhabbah, Yemen. One person was killed and 4 were wounded. Al Qaeda was suspected.

Car Bomb Explosion in Bali, October 12, 2002: A car bomb exploded outside the Sari Club Discotheque in Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia, killing 202 persons and wounding 300 more. Most of the casualties, including 88 of the dead, were Australian tourists. Seven Americans were among the dead. Al Qaeda claimed responsibility. Two suspects were later arrested and convicted. Iman Samudra, who had trained in Afghanistan with al-Qaeda and was suspected of belonging to Jemaah Islamiya, was sentenced to death on September 10, 2003.

Chechen Rebels Seize a Moscow Theater, October 23-26, 2002: Fifty Chechen rebels led by Movsar Barayev seized the Palace of Culture Theater in Moscow, Russia, to demand an end to the war in Chechnya. They seized more than 800 hostages from 13 countries and threatened to blow up the theater. During a three-day siege, they killed a Russian policeman and five Russian hostages. On October 26, Russian Special Forces pumped an anesthetic gas through the ventilation system and then stormed the theater. All of the rebels were killed, but 94 hostages (including one American) also died, many from the effects of the gas. A group led by Chechen warlord Shamil Basayev claimed responsibility.

Assassination of an AID Official, October 28, 2002: Gunmen in Amman assassinated Laurence Foley, Executive Officer of the US Agency for International Development Mission in Jordan. The Honest People of Jordan claimed responsibility.

Suicide Bombing in Jerusalem, November 21, 2002: A suicide bomb attack on a bus on Mexico Street in Jerusalem killed 11 persons and wounded 50 more. One of the dead was a Romanian. HAMAS claimed responsibility.

Attack on Temples in Kashmir, November 24, 2002: Armed militants attacked the Reghunath and Shiv temples in Jammu, Kashmir, killing 13 persons and wounding 50. The Lashkare-e-Tayyiba claimed responsibility.

Attacks on Israeli Tourists in Kenya, November 28, 2002: A three-person suicide car bomb attack on the Paradise Hotel in Mombasa, Kenya, killed 15 persons and wounded 40. Three of the dead and 18 of the wounded were Israeli tourists; the others were Kenyans. Near Mombasa's airport, two SA-7 shoulder-fired missiles were fired as an Arkia Airlines Boeing 757 that was carrying 261 passengers back to Israel. Both missiles missed. Al Qaeda, the Government of Universal Palestine in Exile, and the Army of Palestine claimed responsibility for both attacks. Al-Ittihad al-Islami was also suspected of involvement.

Attack on a Bus in the Philippines, December 26, 2002: Armed militants ambushed a bus carrying Filipino workers employed by the Canadian Toronto Ventures Inc. Pacific

mining company in Zamboanga del Norte. Thirteen persons were killed and 10 wounded. Philippine authorities suspected the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), which had been extorting money from Toronto Ventures. The Catholic charity Caritas-Philippines said that Toronto Ventures had harassed tribesmen who opposed mining on their ancestral lands.

Bombing of a Government Building in Chechnya, December 27, 2002: A suicide bomb attack involving two explosives-laden trucks destroyed the offices of the pro-Russian Chechen government in Grozny. The attack killed over 80 people and wounded 210. According to a Chechen website run by the Kavkaz Center, Chechen warlord Shamil Basayev claimed responsibility.

Suicide Bombings in Tel Aviv, January 5, 2003: Two suicide bomb attacks killed 22 and wounded at least 100 persons in Tel Aviv, Israel. Six of the victims were foreign workers. The Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades claimed responsibility.

Night Club Bombing in Colombia, February 7, 2003: A car bomb exploded outside a night club in Bogota, Colombia, killing 32 persons and wounding 160. No group claimed responsibility, but Colombian officials suspected the Colombian Revolutionary Armed Forces (FARC) of committing the worst terrorist attack in the country in a decade.

Assassination of a Kurdish Leader, February 8, 2003: Members of Ansar al-Islam assassinated Kurdish legislator Shawkat Haji Mushir and captured two other Kurdish officials in Qamash Tapa in northern Iraq.

Suicide Bombing in Haifa, March 5, 2003: A suicide bombing aboard a bus in Haifa, Israel, killed 15 persons and wounded at least 40. One of the dead claimed US as well as Israeli citizenship. The bomber's affiliation was not immediately known.

Suicide Bombing in Netanya, March 30, 2003: A suicide bombing in a cafe in Netanya, Israel, wounded 38 persons. Only the bomber was killed. Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility and called the attack a "gift" to the people of Iraq.

Unsuccessful Hostage Rescue Attempt in Colombia, May 5, 2003: The FARC killed 10 hostages when Colombian special forces tried to rescue them from a jungle hideout near Urrao, in Colombia's Antioquia State. The dead included Governor Guillermo Gavira and former Defense Minister Gilberto Echeverri Mejia, who had been kidnapped in April 2002.

Truck Bomb Attacks in Saudi Arabia, May 12, 2003: Suicide bombers attacked three residential compounds for foreign workers in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The 34 dead included 9 attackers, 7 other Saudis, 9 US citizens, and one citizen each from the United Kingdom, Ireland, and the Philippines. Another American died on June 1. It was the first major attack on US targets in Saudi Arabia since the end of the war in Iraq. Saudi authorities arrested 11 al Qaeda suspects on May 28.

Truck Bombing in Chechnya, May 12, 2003: A truck bomb explosion demolished a government compound in Znamenskoye, Chechnya, killing 54 persons. Russian authorities blamed followers of a Saudi-born Islamist named Abu Walid. President Vladimir Putin said that he suspected that there was an al Qaeda connection.

Attempted Assassination in Chechnya, May 12, 2003: Two female suicide bombers attacked Chechen Administrator Mufti Akhmed Kadyrov during a religious festival in Iliskhan Yurt. Kadyrov escaped injury, but 14 other persons were killed and 43 were wounded. Chechen rebel leader Shamil Basayev claimed responsibility.

Suicide Bomb Attacks in Morocco, May 16, 2003: A team of 12 suicide bombers attacked five targets in Casablanca, Morocco, killing 43 persons and wounding 100. The targets were a Spanish restaurant, a Jewish community, a Jewish cemetery, a hotel, and the Belgian Consulate. The Moroccan Government blamed the Islamist al-Assirat al-Moustaquim (The Righteous Path), but foreign commentators suspected an al Qaeda connection.

Suicide Bomb Attack in Jerusalem, May 18, 2003: A suicide bomb attack on a bus in Jerusalem's French Hill district killed 7 persons and wounded 20. The bomber was disguised as a religious Jew. HAMAS claimed responsibility.

Suicide Bombing in Afula, May 19, 2003: A suicide bomb attack by a female Palestinian student killed 3 persons and wounded 52 at a shopping mall in Afula, Israel. Both Islamic Jihad and the al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades claimed responsibility.

Suicide Bombing in Jerusalem, June 11, 2003: A suicide bombing aboard a bus in Jerusalem killed 16 persons and wounded at least 70, one of whom died later. HAMAS claimed responsibility, calling it revenge for an Israeli helicopter attack on HAMAS leader Abdelaziz al-Rantisi in Gaza City the day before.

Truck Bombing in Northern Ossetia, August 1, 2003: A suicide truck bomb attack destroyed a Russian military hospital in Mozdok, North Ossetia and killed 50 persons. Russian authorities attributed the attack to followers of Chechen rebel leader Shamil Basayev.

Hotel Bombing in Indonesia, August 5, 2003: A car bomb exploded outside the Marriott Hotel in Jakarta, Indonesia, killing 10 persons and wounding 150. One of the dead was a Dutch citizen. The wounded included an American, a Canadian, an Australian, and two Chinese. Indonesian authorities suspected the Jemaah Islamiah, which had carried out the October 12, 2002 bombing in Bali.

Bombing of the Jordanian Embassy in Baghdad, August 7, 2003: A car bomb exploded outside the Jordanian Embassy in Baghdad, Iraq, killing 19 persons and wounding 65. Most of the victims were apparently Iraqis, including 5 police officers. No group claimed responsibility.

Suicide Bombings in Israel and the West Bank, August 12, 2003: The first suicide bombings since the June 29 Israeli-Palestinian truce took place. The first, in a supermarket at Rosh Haayin, Israel, killed one person and wounded 14. The second, at a bus stop near the Ariel settlement in the West Bank, killed one person and wounded 3. The al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades claimed responsibility for the first; HAMAS claimed responsibility for the second.

Bombing of the UN Headquarters in Baghdad, August 19, 2003: A truck loaded with surplus Iraqi ordnance exploded outside the United Nations Headquarters in Baghdad's Canal Hotel. A hospital across the street was also heavily damaged. The 23 dead included UN Special Representative Sergio Vieira de Mello. More than 100 persons were wounded. It was not clear whether the bomber was a Baath Party loyalist or a foreign Islamic militant. An al-Qaeda branch called the Brigades of the Martyr Abu Hafz al-Masri later claimed responsibility.

Suicide Bombing in Jerusalem, August 19, 2003: A suicide bombing aboard a bus in Jerusalem killed 20 persons and injured at least 100, one of whom died later. Five of the dead were American citizens. HAMAS and Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility, although HAMAS leader al-Rantisi said that his organization remained committed to the truce while reserving the right to respond to Israeli military actions.

Car Bomb Kills Shi'ite Leader in Najaf, August 29, 2003: A car bomb explosion outside the Shrine of the Imam Ali in Najaf, Iraq killed at least 81 persons and wounded at least 140. The dead included the Ayatollah Mohammed Bakir al-Hakim, one of four leading Shi'ite clerics in Iraq. Al-Hakim had been the leader of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI) since its establishment in 1982, and SCIRI had recently agreed to work with the US-sponsored Iraqi Governing Council. It was not known whether the perpetrators were Baath Party loyalists, rival Shi'ites, or foreign Islamists.

Suicide Bombings in Israel, September 9, 2003: Two suicide bombings took place in Israel. The first, at a bus stop near the Tsrifin army base southeast of Tel Aviv, killed 7 soldiers and wounded 14 soldiers and a civilian. The second, at a café in Jerusalem's German Colony neighborhood, killed 6 persons and wounded 40. HAMAS did not claim responsibility until the next day, although a spokesman called the first attack "a response to Israeli aggression."

Assassination of an Iraqi Governing Council Member, September 20, 2003: Gunmen shot and seriously wounded Akila Hashimi, one of three female members of the Iraqi Governing Council, near her home in Baghdad. She died September 25.

A Second Attack on the UN Headquarters in Baghdad, September 22, 2003: A suicide car bomb attack on the UN Headquarters in Baghdad killed a security guard and wounded 19 other persons.

Suicide Bombing in Israel, October 4, 2003: A Palestinian woman made a suicide bomb attack on a restaurant in Haifa, killing 19 persons and wounding at least 55. Islamic Ji-

had claimed responsibility for the attack. The next day, Israel bombed a terrorist training camp in Syria.

Attacks in Iraq, October 9, 2003: Gunmen assassinated a Spanish military attaché in Baghdad. A suicide car bomb attack on an Iraqi police station killed 8 persons and wounded 40.

Car Bombings in Baghdad, October 12, 2003: Two suicide car bombs exploded outside the Baghdad Hotel, which housed US officials. Six persons were killed and 32 wounded. Iraqi and US security personnel apparently kept the cars from actually reaching the hotel.

Bomb Attack on US Diplomats in the Gaza Strip, October 15, 2003: A remote-controlled bomb exploded under a car in a US diplomatic convoy passing through the northern Gaza Strip. Three security guards, all employees of DynCorp, were killed. A fourth was wounded. The diplomats were on their way to interview Palestinian candidates for Fulbright scholarships to study in the United States. Palestinian President Arafat and Prime Minister Qurei condemned the attack, while the major Palestinian militant groups denied responsibility. The next day, Palestinian security forces arrested several suspects, some of whom belonged to the Popular Resistance Committees.

Rocket Attack on the al-Rashid Hotel in Baghdad, October 26, 2003: Iraqis using an improvised rocket launcher bombarded the al-Rashid Hotel in Baghdad, killing one US Army officer and wounding 17 persons. The wounded included 4 US military personnel and seven American civilians. Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul D. Wolfowitz, who was staying at the hotel, was not injured. After visiting the wounded, he said, "They're not going to scare us away; we're not giving up on this job."

Assassination of a Deputy Mayor in Baghdad, October 26, 2003: Two gunmen believed to be Baath Party loyalists assassinated Faris Abdul Razaq al-Assam, one of three deputy mayors of Baghdad. US officials did not announce al-Assam's death until October 28.

Wave of Car Bombings in Baghdad, October 27, 2003: A series of suicide car bombings in Baghdad killed at least 35 persons and wounded at least 230. Four attacks were directed at Iraqi police stations, the fifth and most destructive was directed at the International Committee of the Red Cross headquarters, where at least 12 persons were killed. A sixth attack failed when a car bomb failed to explode and the bomber was wounded and captured by Iraqi police. US and Iraqi officials suspected that foreign terrorists were involved; the unsuccessful bomber said he was a Syrian national and carried a Syrian passport. After a meeting with Administrator L. Paul Bremer, President Bush said, "The more successful we are on the ground, the more these killers will react."

Suicide Bombing in Riyadh, November 8, 2003: In Riyadh, a suicide car bombing took place in the Muhaya residential compound, which was occupied mainly by nationals of other Arab countries. Seventeen persons were killed and 122 were wounded. The latter

included 4 Americans. The next day, Deputy Secretary of State Armitage said al-Qaeda was probably responsible.

Truck Bombing in Nasiriyah, November 12, 2003: A suicide truck bomb destroyed the headquarters of the Italian military police in Nasiriyah, Iraq, killing 18 Italians and 11 Iraqis and wounding at least 100 persons.

Synagogue Bombings in Istanbul, November 15, 2003: Two suicide truck bombs exploded outside the Neve Shalom and Beth Israel synagogues in Istanbul, killing 25 persons and wounding at least 300 more. The initial claim of responsibility came from a Turkish militant group, the Great Eastern Islamic Raiders' Front, but Turkish authorities suspected an al-Qaeda connection. The next day, the London-based newspaper al-Quds al-Arabi received an e-mail in which an al-Qaeda branch called the Brigades of the Martyr Abu Hafz al-Masri claimed responsibility for the Istanbul synagogue bombings.

Grenade Attacks in Bogota, November 15, 2003: Grenade attacks on two bars frequented by Americans in Bogota killed one person and wounded 72, including 4 Americans. Colombian authorities suspected FARC (the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia). The US Embassy suspected that the attacks had targeted Americans and warned against visiting commercial centers and places of entertainment.

More Suicide Truck Bombings in Istanbul, November 20, 2003: Two more suicide truck bombings devastated the British HSBC Bank and the British Consulate General in Istanbul, killing 27 persons and wounding at least 450. The dead included Consul General Roger Short. US, British, and Turkish officials suspected that al-Qaeda had struck again. The US Consulate in Istanbul was closed, and the Embassy in Ankara advised American citizens in Istanbul to stay home.

Car Bombing in Kirkuk, November 20, 2003: A suicide car bombing in Kirkuk killed 5 persons. The target appeared to be the headquarters of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan. PUK officials suspected the Ansar al-Islam group, which was said to have sheltered fugitive Taliban and al-Qaeda members after the US campaign in Afghanistan.

Attacks on Other Coalition Personnel in Iraq, November 29-30, 2003: Iraqi insurgents stepped up attacks on nationals of other members of the Coalition. On November 29, an ambush in Mahmudiyah killed 7 out of a party of 8 Spanish intelligence officers. Iraqi insurgents also killed two Japanese diplomats near Tikrit. On November 30, another ambush near Tikrit killed two South Korean electrical workers and wounded two more. A Colombian employee of Kellogg Brown & Root was killed and two were wounded in an ambush near Balad.

Train Bombing in Southern Russia, December 5, 2003: A suicide bomb attack killed 42 persons and wounded 150 aboard a Russian commuter train in the south Russian town of Yessentuki. Russian officials suspected Chechen rebels; President Putin said the attack was meant to disrupt legislative elections. Chechen rebel leader Aslan Maskhadov

denied any involvement.

Suicide Bombing in Moscow, December 9, 2003: A female suicide bomber killed 5 other persons and wounded 14 outside Moscow's National Hotel. She was said to be looking for the State Duma.

Suicide Car Bombings in Iraq, December 15, 2003: Two days after the capture of Saddam Hussein, there were two suicide car bomb attacks on Iraqi police stations. One at Husainiyah killed 8 persons and wounded 20. The other, at Ameriyah, wounded 7 Iraqi police. Guards repelled a second vehicle.

Office Bombing in Baghdad, December 19, 2003: A bomb destroyed the Baghdad office of the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, killing a woman and wounding at least 7 other persons.

Suicide Car Bombing in Irbil, December 24, 2003: A suicide car bomb attack on the Kurdish Interior Ministry in Irbil, Iraq, killed 5 persons and wounded 101.

Attempted Assassination in Rawalpindi, December 25, 2003: Two suicide truck bombers killed 14 persons as President Musharraf's motorcade passed through Rawalpindi, Pakistan. An earlier attempt on December 14 caused no casualties. Pakistani officials suspected Afghan and Kashmiri militants. On January 6, 2004, Pakistani authorities announced the arrest of 6 suspects who were said to be members of Jaish-e-Muhammad.

Suicide Bombing in Israel, December 25, 2003: A Palestinian suicide bomber killed 4 persons at a bus stop near Petah Tikva, Israel. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine claimed responsibility for the attack in retaliation for Israeli military operations in Nablus that had begun two days earlier.

Restaurant Bombing in Baghdad, December 31, 2003: A car bomb explosion outside Baghdad's Nabil Restaurant killed 8 persons and wounded 35. The wounded included 3 Los Angeles Times reporters and 3 local employees.

So, as you can see, George didn't have a choice. Whether the Muslims are a religion that believes in peace or not is no longer the question to me. I've confirmed to my own satisfaction that they're out to get us, or is that US?

I was near page 290 of my story when I decided to add this prologue. Where did Hezbollah get the rockets? From Syria who got them from Iran who either got them from the Chinese or the North Koreans. That, of course, overlooks where the weapons were designed and built, Russia. Russia is the only country that has more nukes than we do. The Chinese could damage us, but the Russians could kill us. I don't know whether North Korea has nukes or not, I really don't care, their ICBMs suck.

Whether it's one nuclear weapon or several thousand, it will ruin your day. Natural disasters notwithstanding, the odds seem to favor the really big next event might not be

created by Mother Nature but by man. All the important things I told you are summed up, repeated, in this story. If you read it, thank you, if not, God Bless you, I'm happy to know that you're so prepared that you don't need any advice.

My hero in this story is a class III gun dealer from Arizona and he can legally own all those nasty things that are impossible for many of us to get. You can, for example, own a Ma Deuce if you can afford it and live in a state that permits class III weapons. Alaska has the most liberal guns laws, but Arizona isn't far behind. It's a perfect place to live as far as I'm because I don't have anything against Indians.

Sorry for the long prologue, but the list of terrorist events was very long. Some of the things that happen later may have actually been terrorist events, I don't know, 'they' didn't tell us. There are only 3 little events that work against our friends, and with me living in California, you can see why the first one happened, it happened to me. Did you read in the paper about the drought in South Dakota? Have you heard that Louisiana has a growing problem? I'll tell you about that in a while, for the moment, think about the terrorist acts from 1961-2003. It goes a long way to explaining why George is doing what he is doing or not doing. It got mighty hot in California this year and the heat killed a lot of people. Apparently, they aren't done counting, but the last number I heard was 132.

When We Were Young – Chapter 1

2004:

February 6: A suicide bomber kills 41 people on a metro car in Moscow.

February 7: Several leaders of Abnaa el-Balad are arrested in Israel.

February 10: At least 50 people are killed in a car bomb attack on a police recruitment center south of Baghdad.

March 11: Simultaneous explosions on rush hour trains in Madrid kill 190 people.

March 14: Two suicide bombers kill eleven Israeli civilians in Ashdod, Israel.

March 15: The new Spanish government announces that it will withdraw Spain's 1,300 troops in Iraq.

March 17: A pogrom-like organized violence breaks out over two days in Kosovo. Nineteen people are killed, 139 Serbian homes are burned, schools and businesses are vandalized, and over 30 Orthodox monasteries and churches are burned and destroyed.

March 22: Palestinians protest in the streets after an Israeli helicopter gunship fires a missile at the entourage of Ahmed Yassin in Gaza City, killing Yassin and 7 others.

March 31: Four American private military contractors working for Blackwater USA, are killed and their bodies mutilated after being ambushed in Fallujah, Iraq.

April 3: A bomb explosion in a Madrid flat kills a Spanish policeman, and five terrorists suspected of responsibility for the Madrid train bombings on March 11.

April 4: Serious fighting breaks out in Najaf, Sadr City, and Basra in Iraq, as Shia insurgents supporting Muqtada alSadr rise against coalition forces.

April 8: Three Japanese citizens are taken hostage in Iraq.

April 17: Israeli helicopters fire missiles at a convoy of vehicles in the Gaza Strip, killing the Gaza leader of Hamas, Abekl Aziz al-Rantissi.

April 20: In Iraq, 12 mortars were fired on Abu Ghraib Prison by insurgents. Twenty two detainees were killed and 92 wounded.

April 28: Abuse of prisoners at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq is revealed on the television show 60 Minutes II.

May 9: Chechen president Akhmad Kadyrov is killed by a landmine placed under a VIP stage during a World War II memorial parade in Grozny.

May 12: An American civilian contractor in Iraq, Nick Berg, is shown being decapitated by a group allegedly linked to al Qaeda on a web-distributed video.

May 16: Failed coup d'etat in Chad against the President Idriss Déby.

May 17: Ezzedine Salim, holder of the rotating leadership of the Iraqi Governing Council, is killed in a bomb blast in Baghdad.

August 1: A bomb attack occurs in front of Prague's Casino Royal.

August 6: A United Nations report that blames the government of Sudan for crimes against humanity in Darfur is released.

August 21: A series of blasts rocks a rally of an opposition party in Dhaka, Bangladesh, killing at least 13 people.

August 31: Two suicide attacks on buses in Beer Sheva, Israel, kill at least 16 people and injure at least 60. Hamas claims responsibility for the attacks. A woman commits a suicide attack near a subway station in northern Moscow, Russia, killing at least 10 people and injuring at least 50. Authorities hold Chechen rebels responsible.

September 1: Chechen terrorists take between 1,000 and 1,500 people hostage, mostly children, in a school in Beslan, Northern Ossetia. The hostage-takers demand the release of Chechen terrorists imprisoned in neighboring Ingushetia and the independence of Chechnya from Russia.

September 2: The United Nations Security Council adopts Resolution 1559 calling for the removal of all foreign troops from Lebanon. This measure is largely aimed at Syrian troops.

September 3: Russian forces end the siege at a school in Beslan, Northern Ossetia. At least 335 people (among which are 32 of the approximately 40 hostage-takers) are killed and at least 700 people injured.

September 9: A bomb blast outside the Australian embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia, kills eleven people and injures up to 100 people.

October 4: Two car bombs kill at least 16 people and injure dozens more in Baghdad.

October 8: Kenneth Bigley, the British hostage held by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, an Iraqi insurgent, is killed after a failed escape attempt. Suicide bombers detonate two bombs at the Red Sea resort of Taba, Egypt, killing 34 people, mainly Israeli tourists and Egyptian workers.

October 18: Three men attack Greek journalist Philippos Syrigos in Athens and seriously wound him.

October 24: The bodies of 49 Iraqi soldiers are discovered after being ambushed by insurgents.

October 29: A videotape of Osama Bin Laden speaking airs on Arabic TV, in which he threatens terrorist attacks on the United States, and taunts the President, George W. Bush, over the September 11 Terrorist attacks.

November 1: A 16 year old Palestinian Muslim blows himself up in an outdoor market in Tel Aviv, killing three Israelis.

November 2: Dutch film maker Theo van Gogh is assassinated in Amsterdam, Netherlands by Mohammed Bouyeri.

November 6: In Côte d'Ivoire, National Army bombings kill nine people, including French UN soldiers. French UN forces retaliate by destroying the National Army's air force.

November 7: US forces launch a major assault on the Iraqi town of Fallujah, in an effort to rid the area of insurgents before the Iraqi elections in January.

November 11: Yasser Arafat, leader of the Palestinian Authority, dies in a Paris hospital.

November 13: After six days of intense battles, the Iraqi town of Fallujah is fully occupied by US forces.

December 6: Terrorists attack the US consulate in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, killing several people.

December 15: Albanian terrorists take a bus and its passengers hostage in Athens, Greece and demand 1 million euros in ransom money.

December 21: Iraqi insurgents attack a US military base in the city of Mosul and kill 22 people.

o

At age 18, Robert 'Rob' Miller didn't need his mother's permission to join the Army, but he talked to her about anyway. He'd graduated in June of 1957, had looked at all the branches of the military and decided to enter the Army. There wasn't a war at the moment, WWII and Korea were over. She told him he might as well get it over with before we had another war.

Not long after he entered Army, the US and Canada formed NORAD (1958). In '61, about the time he was getting out, they held a ground breaking ceremony for the Cheyenne Mountain Command Operations Center. When he finished with training he ended up doing a tour in Korea. There for a while in '61, it looked like he might get extended, because of the Bay of Pigs. However, President Kennedy chose not to get involved.

When he got out in '61, he had no idea what he wanted to do. He hadn't learned a trade in the Army unless humping a Garand counted. Although the Army authorized the new M14 rifle in 1957, the 101st Airborne was the only fully equipped unit when he got out. He'd seen the new rifle, it was a modified Garand with a 20-round box magazine and smaller stock. It was .30 caliber but not the 30-06. The new cartridge was called the 7.62x51mm and the same as the civilian .308 or nearly so.

Rob took his separation pay and spent a little of it on a Winchester Model 70 rifle in the .308 Winchester caliber. The guy in the gun shop thought he was crazy and should 'just stick with the 30-06'. Rob figured he might be able to shoot the military ammo in the rifle when it finally became surplus. It was now the official NATO .30 caliber cartridge.

◦

H&K started to build the G-3 rifle in the new cartridge and a civilian version the, HK91 began to be imported in 1974, the same year the M1A rifle became available from the Springfield Armory, Inc. The rifle that started the young company on its way to becoming the preeminent tactical firearms manufacturer during the latter half of the 20th century was known as the G3. In the early 1970s, before semiautomatic copies of select fire battle rifles or "assault weapons" became really popular, Heckler & Koch adapted the model 91 as a semiautomatic counterpart to the G3 that was deemed importable into the United States until 1989. The most prolific of the HK90 series to be imported, the 91 was on its way to becoming the most popular rifle import from HK, beating out the 93 in US sales by almost 20 to 1.

Almost identical to the G3 externally, with only the select fire internals missing, the flipper magazine release deleted, the front pushpin area replaced with the "shelf" and the grenade launching ring omitted from the barrel, the HK91 was considered the "Rolls Royce" of battle rifle copies. Introduced at a staggering price of \$400 or so dollars at the time, they were unbeknown to most, a significant investment, with most genuine examples bringing now close to \$2000 used. Total HK91 Imports from Germany were 48,817 through 1989.

◦

Rob ended up in Phoenix, Arizona working for a class III gun dealer. Man, talk about background checks, bonding and all of the stuff the guy insisted on, you'd have thought he was working for the CIA. There weren't many class III dealers in Phoenix at the time, maybe 3. It was a good job, however, and Rob learned the business very well. One article he read said:

Any legal entity that is not an individual (i.e. not a living breathing human) does not require prints, photographs, and LE signoff when purchasing Title II items. This can be a corporation, a LLC, a LLP, and most likely a trust if properly filed and documented. "Inking yourself" (forming your own corporation) is not a very difficult thing to do for the purpose of buying machine guns. Forming a corporation properly to conduct business may be another matter. Most states require the submission of articles of incorporation to the division of corporations of the state, the payment of an initial filing fee, and a yearly filing fee to keep the corporation alive.

Upon filing the articles and paying the initial filing fee, most states require that a couple things happen before the corporation magically comes to life. Most require at a minimum that an initial meeting of the shareholders take place (you may be the only shareholder), that officers be elected (in most states a single person may hold all of the officer positions, some states require two and possibly more), and that minutes of this meeting be recorded and kept with the corporate documents. Generally an annual meeting of the shareholders the minutes of which are recorded is required. As noted by a previous respondent, as all officers of the corporation may legally possess the firearms owned by the corporation, it is a good idea to be sure that none of the officers has a disabling conviction (ATF speak for a criminal conviction barring you from owning or possessing firearms.)

While it would be legal for the corporation to own firearms even if an officer has a disabling conviction, the corporation (and its non-disabled officers and employees) would have the legal burden of precluding the disabled person from accessing the firearm.

In most respects, the corporation functions as an individual would with the obvious exception of the exemption from prints, pictures, and the LEO signoff. If the corporation wants to purchase a Title II (or Title I for that matter) item from a dealer or individual within their state, they may do so via a tax paid Form 4, and receive the firearm directly. An officer authorized to sign for the corporation (I'd recommend some sort of resolution noted in the official minutes of the shareholders meeting that indicates that so and so can purchase firearms and sign for the company although this probably isn't really necessary) will fill out the Form 4473, and if the seller is a dealer, he'll also have you sign a written statement that you are buying the firearm for the use of and on behalf of the corporation (dealers read the back of your 4473 if you are saying "WHAT!?!?!?!"). If the seller is an individual then no 4473.

If the corporation is buying the firearm from an out of state dealer or private person, then the sale will have to take place through a licensed (Class III) dealer in the corporation's state of residence (state of incorporation). Most Class III dealers will charge \$100 or so for this service.

If the corporation should become an FFL, then it may purchase Title II firearms on a Form 4 tax paid from sellers intrastate or interstate. This is true even if the corporation is just a regular Title I FFL and not a Class III. It obviously cannot purchase Title II fire-

arms for the purpose of resale without paying the \$500 SOT and becoming a Class III dealer.

If the corporation should become an FFL, and pay the SOT to be a Class III dealer, then obviously the corporation could engage in the business of buying and selling all Title II items as any other Class III dealer can. With the sole exception of being able to buy dealer samples (by virtue of being a Class III dealer), there is not much advantage in this for someone who intends to maintain their license for a short time, acquire a bunch of firearms and drop their license. Unlike individual sole proprietors, CORPORATIONS MAY NOT RETAIN POSSESSION OF ANY CLASS III ITEMS IN THEIR INVENTORY UPON ALLOWING THEIR LICENSE TO LAPSE (10-G-1, p.96, yellow book.)

Additionally as a Class III dealer you most likely would be receiving the firearms on tax exempt transfer forms (Form 3). Becoming a SOT for the sole purpose of enhancing your collection is tax fraud and will land you in the slammer.

HOWEVER, if the corporation were a Class III FFL, and purchased Title II firearms interstate (or intrastate for that matter), on a tax paid Form 4, checking the "SOT payer acquiring the firearm for personal collection" box, the firearms would already be registered to the corporation and would not be considered part of the inventory, and as such would (I believe) remain lawfully registered to the corporation after allowing the SOT to lapse (since the ruling only disallows rolling your "inventory" to yourself, and does not mention firearms that you had transferred to the corporation's "collection" (which I know sounds funny.))

I think that if I was going to do the Corporation thing to avoid the LE signoff, I'd skip the FFL and SOT business altogether unless you seriously plan to conduct business on a regular basis. It isn't going to cost much more (machine guns are expensive) to just be a regular old corporation, pay the \$200 per gun transfer tax, pay your dealer \$100 to handle the transfers, and be clean and neat about it. This is perfectly legit and hundreds (maybe thousands?) of people do it this way. If you go getting an FFL/SOT and have less than genuine intentions, you're asking for a world of crap that you don't really want to deal with.

I know I "wrote a book" here, but I hope the information was useful. If I can help clear anything up for anybody, please feel free to e-mail me and I'll do my best. I've read everything I can get my hands on (James Bardwell's FAQ, the red, yellow, green, and blue books, the Machine Gun Dealer's Bible by Dan Shea, and God knows what else; and committed a good chunk of it to memory.)

o

It was an interesting article, but he decided to check and see how true it was. It turned out to be close enough for government work, as the saying goes, and forming a corporation wasn't a big deal, it just took some money. Rob had a job and some money left over from mustering out so it didn't take him that long to get the corporation formed,

maybe 6 months. He continued to work for the gun dealer and began in earnest to save money so he could properly equip his new company.

It wasn't all that long after that that the Cuban Missile Crisis occurred and that was a real wakeup call. He checked and his uniforms still fit, perhaps even better than when he'd mustered out, he wasn't much of a cook. Moreover, Rob liked to run and in the evenings when it was cool enough he'd try to get in 5 miles. In the cooler months, that hadn't been a problem, but in the summer, some nights barely got down to the 90s. To round out his physical training, Rob had found a gym and began to do a little weight training. People who do a lot of weight training tend to grow thick necks and end up needing to buy special clothes so they'll fit. Rob wasn't a fanatic; he just wanted very good muscle tone. Now a person couldn't tell by looking, but Rob was very, very fit, perhaps even better than when he'd finished boot camp.

Somehow, JFK managed to defuse the looming crisis and the US more or less went back to normal. However, the next little thing that popped up was JFK sending advisers to Vietnam. By the time it turned into a war in 1964, Rob had completed his military obligation and received his discharge papers. Or, don't you remember when your commitment was only 6 years and not 8? By this time, JFK had been killed in Dallas, November 22, 1963 and LBJ was top dog.

The massive escalation of the war from 1964 to 1968 was justified on the basis of the Gulf of Tonkin Incident on August 2-4, 1964 in which the Johnson Administration claimed US ships were attacked by the North Vietnamese. On the basis of the attack the Senate approved the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution on 07Aug64, which gave broad support to President Johnson to escalate US involvement in the war "as the President shall determine". The Cold War, which had almost gotten to be a real war in October of '62, ratcheted up a notch or two.

o

In 1965, Rob applied for and received a FFL, class III. He opened his own store using the money he'd saved and a small business loan. The store was a sporting goods store open to the general public and the class III business was in the same building but separate. An old Army buddy who had gone to school at Trinidad State Junior College in Trinidad, Colorado and become a gunsmith was hired for the gunsmith work.

An armorer in the Army, Matt Johnson was a very good gunsmith. He wasn't any older than Rob and was also single. After he'd finished Junior College, he'd worked as an apprentice gunsmith in Colorado for a couple of years for a class III dealer, refining and polishing his skills. Rob hired a woman named Susan LeBelle as his cashier. Another individual, Frank Morgan, was hired as his counterman in the sporting goods store. Frank was in his early 30s and married with two children.

Phoenix has its share of gun stores and without selling sporting goods, Rob felt he couldn't make a go of the business. Very few people can make a go of a class III busi-

ness because of low volume and high prices, which are interdependent. The prices are high because, among other things, the volume is rather low. However, over a period of time the corporation built both its class III inventory and its corporate owned, non-inventory class III weapons. Most of the profits after all wages, including Rob's, costs were deducted and taxes paid went into retained earnings, all represented by company owned, non-inventory firearms and ammo. The company owned class III weapons all had the \$200 tax stamp and were stored separately.

◦

In 1967, the US military began replacing the M14 with the M16, the so called poodle shooter or Mattel toy gun. Once the bugs were worked out of the guns, they began a long service with the US military. Unfortunately many of the M14s were destroyed on McNamara's orders rather than being sold, even new rifles. One of the principal problems with the M14 was the selective fire mode because in full auto, the weapon was uncontrollable. A few of the M14s did make it to the civilian market as semi-automatic weapons. Rob began to buy these. He also bought FALs and G-3 rifles that were class III weapons, primarily as non-inventory items for the corporation.

Rob was doing a great mail order business in non-NFA weapons until 1968, when up popped the Devil, aka the Gun Control Act of 1968. GCA68 followed in the wake of the King and Kennedy assassinations. In the wake of that legislation, Rob sold his class III inventory to another dealer and turned in his class III license. However, the other dealer who he referred his class III customers to would, in turn, take delivery of the interstate purchased class III weapons for no charge.

◦

Cut forward to 1972 because that's when things really started to go well. From '66 until '71, Rob and Sue dated. Finally when he was sure in his mind that she was the woman he wanted to spend the rest of his life with, he popped the question.

"Sue, will you marry me?"

"Gee, I don't know Rob. I mean what do I know about you? I like your mother well enough, but you worry me. We've dated for 5 years and you never once tried to get too familiar, are you a homo or something?"

"I was being a gentleman and besides, office romances aren't really a good idea."

"Confucius say, 'Man who lay woman on ground, get peace on earth'."

"Bull. Confucius's philosophy emphasized personal and governmental morality, correctness of social relationships, justice and sincerity."

"I was beginning to think you weren't attracted to me. Matt asked me out and I told him I'd think about it."

"I'm in love with you and have been for quite some time."

"I wouldn't want you to rush into anything, what's it been, only FIVE YEARS?"

"Sue, you've seen what it's taken to get this business going. You've been here since the start and know how hard I worked to accumulate enough to take on the responsibilities of a wife and a family."

"What are you planning on doing, adopting?"

"No. I thought... oh, never mind."

"Yes."

"Yes, what?"

"Yes, silly, I'll marry you."

"You can have 4-5 years to think it over, if you're not sure."

"I don't think so, my biological clock is ticking. I'm 26 years old and in 5 more years, I'll be getting to the point where having kids might not be as good an idea."

o

I hadn't really thought about it, we had fun and I hadn't been raised to think about sex outside of marriage. Before I asked Sue or anyone else to marry me, I had wanted to be well established. Phoenix was growing and I had talked to Matt about buying the business so I could move to a smaller community, like Flagstaff. He knew how I felt about Sue and I think perhaps it was his way of forcing me to get off the dime. I told him I proposed and she accepted.

"How much do you want for the business?"

"Matt, I'm willing to sell the business for a fair price, but that doesn't include the corporation. Why don't you take a look at the books and make me an offer?"

"I think I'd restart the class III business, assuming I can get the license. Why don't you want to sell the corporation; because of the firearms it owns?"

"Precisely. You can form your own corporation and do the same as I did, you know."

"Do you have any firearms that the corporation doesn't own?"

"Just one, my pre-'64 Winchester model 70 in .308 caliber."

"That would make a very good sniper's rifle. Do you have a scope?"

"No, but I've been thinking about buying one, probably a variable power."

"I heard that they used some pre-'64 Winchester model 70s in Nam for a while. Then they got the M21 and finally the Remington's."

"Could be, I haven't heard Matt. Will you be my best man at the wedding?"

"Be happy to. You're really going to do it, huh?"

"Marry Sue? Yes, I finally bit the bullet. I'll be glad when this war is over though. We've lost over 55,000 and climbing."

"I think we came up on the short end, Rob. We will probably end up evacuating our last people out of there."

"I just hope they start selling off the surplus M14 rifles. I wouldn't mind having some of those."

"If they don't some company will buy the rights and start building a civilian version. That's a good rifle with plenty of knockdown power. I heard the biggest problem was the grunts lugging it through the jungle. Of course they had some problems with that new rifle; they switched the powder and didn't chrome the barrels."

"I bought several of the AR-15s and some of the new Ruger Mini-14s. I suspect that the Colt is a better firearm than the Ruger even though the Rugers action is based on the M14."

"I heard that they're going to be importing some of the H&K civilian versions of the G-3 called the HK91."

"I'd like to get my hands on some of those, H&K builds fine weapons. I'll keep my eyes peeled and when they do, I'm going to buy a few."

"I also heard that they have a .223 version called the HK93."

"That's the crappy .22 that's not worth a darn. Still, they could become collectors' items; I might buy a few of those too."

"Are you planning on opening a new store in Flagstaff if I buy you out?"

"I was thinking more along the lines of trying to capitalize on some of the better weapons and try and turn a buck that way. I'll probably just keep my non-destructive license and you can go with the class III stuff. Will you take over as the supplier for the corporation if I do?"

"Can't do it for free, but what would you say to \$25 per item?"

"That will work. You know I think there are going to be a lot of changes over the next few years. If a man buys cheap and sits on the weapons, he might be able to make a large fortune."

"What are you going to do?"

"Buy all of the war surplus weapons I can lay my hands on and convert them to civilian legal. All it takes is removing the connector rod from the M14 to make it semi auto. There should be a lot of surplus ammo coming on the market as the war wears down. Properly stored, it's good forever. They're still using WWII and Korean ammo in Nam."

"They're going to improve the military right out of business, mark my words. Did you guys set a date for the wedding?"

"I think she said Saturday, June 17th (1972)."

"Fancy wedding or are you going to tone it down?"

"I have to pay for the tuxedos, relax. It will be a church wedding at the local church."

"Which church?"

"That's up to Sue, probably the Lutheran Church. Her dad is stuck with most of the cost of the wedding."

"Where do you plan to honeymoon?"

"Acapulco, for one week. Meanwhile you get an accountant to look over the books and figure out an offer."

"Are you sure you won't sell the corporation?"

"Positive. Figure the value of the inventory, a reasonable amount for goodwill and a fair price for the building. I'm sure we can come to an understanding. I have a few weapons I want to add to the corporation's inventory so get a move on with that class III license."

o

What can you say about a wedding? The bride wore white and the groom a tux. Sue's parents weren't all that well off and they kept the guest list for the wedding reasonably short and the reception was held in the Church basement with even a smaller guest list than the wedding. Rob was careful to try and keep the wedding small and even pitched in a little to help Susan's dad, Ray, to cover some of the expenses. Rob even went so far as to help Sue pay for part of her trousseau for their week in Acapulco.

Before they left, Matt had an initial offer for the business and Rob agree to try and find time during their honeymoon to consider it. And since theirs had been a short engagement, no doubt some of the wags were counting the days until Sue had a baby. It wasn't the '50s any longer but neither was it the nineties.

It wasn't until the 4th day of their honeymoon that the newlyweds came up for air and took time to consider Matt's proposal. It was well within bargaining range so they agreed they'd make a few minor adjustments and make it a done deal. In their absence, Matt had purchased an off the shelf corporation and made initial contact about securing financing. It only took a few days to iron out the final details and the sale of the business was closed.

Nixon swept the election in November of '72 but there was some backlash, something to do with a break-in at the Watergate. Initially, it appeared that it might blow over and then John Dean testified before the Senate Select Committee and things began to fall apart. Vice President Agnew was forced to resign a year later and Nixon replaced him with Gerald Ford under the provisions of the 25th Amendment. Meanwhile the War in South-east Asia was drawing to a conclusion even as the Watergate Scandal intensified.

Sue and Rob looked for a home in Flagstaff, but nothing seemed to suit their fancy. They ended up buying a half section about 25 miles south of Flagstaff in the rapidly growing area of Sedona. Fortunately Rob had a reasonable amount of savings and taken together with the proceeds from the sale of the business to Matt they now owned a newly remodeled home on the half section free and clear.

Rob decided to open a store front in Sedona as opposed to Flagstaff, trading on the now blossoming tourist trade. Once again, he financed much of the startup cost with a SBA loan and opened a gun store catering primarily to the western crowd. In essence, they had two business ventures, the retail gun store and a side business now complete with the more expensive class III license, run from a separate building on their acreage.

In 1974 H&K shipped the first 50 HK91s to the US. Springfield Armory, Inc. opened their door producing the M1A, M1911 and Garand rifles. Based in Geneseo, Illinois they reengineered the M14 rifle and began to market the M1A. They also produced the M21 tactical rifle, a National Match grade sniper's rifle. In addition they produced a survival rifle called the M-6.

By this time, Sue was expecting their first child and generally speaking the world was at peace. At peace as it ever was, anyway; there probably hadn't been a day in the last 3,000 years where there wasn't a war going on somewhere.

o

"Hey buddy, how business?"

"Rob, nice to hear from you. Making a living, what can I say? Bob Dylan got it right, the times, they are a changing. How are you doing in Sedona?"

"Fair. I'd be doing a whole lot better if it weren't for GCA68. The tourists come in and look at the Colts and Winchesters but can't buy them because they aren't residents of Arizona. Sue's pregnant."

"Congratulations. It's about time you settled down and started a family."

"I could say the same for you Matt."

"I'm seeing someone, her name's Sarah. It might be a little early to say, but I think I hit the jackpot. Did you see where H&K is importing the HK91 and HK93?"

"Yes, I bought one of each to check them out. Have you seen the M1A rifle that Springfield Armory is building?"

"I have 2 in the store, they're basically an improved M14 in semi auto. Did you get any?"

"Same as you, I got two. Bought them for the corporation though. Had a chance to pick up some overruns from the government ammo plant, I bought a pallet load of the 7.62."

"Do you want to sell some of it?"

"I could, why don't you and Sarah come up for the weekend and bring your pickup?"

"I'll ask her, but unless you hear otherwise, see you Saturday."

o

"I talked to Matt today."

"How is he doing?"

"Fair; he told me he's dating a gal name Sarah and I invited them up for the weekend."

"I'd better get a move on then and get this house cleaned up."

"I have a better idea, Sue. I'll talk to a gal in town who cleans houses and see if she can work ours in. Would Friday be ok?"

"That or Thursday. I'm going to run up to Flagstaff and see if I can find any new maternity wear. Want to ride along?"

"Wednesdays aren't too busy, Dave can handle the store and I'd be glad to go with you."

"Has the price of gas come down?"

"It's still 65 cents a gallon. I have a feeling that the days of 25 cent gas are long over. OPEC embargoed oil for everyone who supported Israel in the Yom Kippur War. They've gotten a taste of higher prices; I doubt they'll come down anytime soon. It's been a boon for the import car market, though."

"I wouldn't have a Japanese car if you gave it to me."

"There is nothing wrong with your Fairlane or my F-100."

"My Fairlane is 4 years old; I think it's time to get a new car."

"How many miles does it have on it?"

"40,000."

"Honey, it's barely broken in. My 1960 only has 65,000 miles on it and I think I'll drive it to the junkyard, in about 25 years. Besides, it has 4WD. I'd much rather put money away for our children to go to college and us to retire."

"You'll never get rich owning a gun store."

"We make a good living, Sue. I've been putting 10% of our income in a mutual fund and it's doing pretty good."

"Do we have any money in savings?"

"That's the other 10% I've been saving, let me get you the passbook and show you."

"Wow, you've saved that much?"

"I only leave it in the passbook until I have enough to buy another CD. The CDs are in the safe in the basement. I bought them in both of our names as Joint Tenants with Rights of Survivorship. How are you doing on our household budget, is it enough or do I need to increase it?"

"I set up a system of envelopes. I divide up the money when you give it to me and take it out when we need something. Several of the envelopes have more than enough for our future needs, I was thinking about putting some of the money in savings."

"Don't; you never know when we might need some cash and the bank is closed."

Rob kept his safe in a night lock position, only turning the dial a little so it wouldn't reopen but could be easily opened by setting the dial back to the correct setting. It beat trying to remember the combination. He'd mentioned the CDs to Sue when he'd brought them home and added them to the envelope in the safe, calling them 'money for our future'. Sue was equally frugal, and had filled the fruit cellar with extra items she'd bought when things they ate were on sale. She'd stopped smoking when she got pregnant but hadn't changed the amount she set aside for cigarettes, thus that envelope was growing.

Rob generally bought their cigarettes on one of the Reservations; Arizona had several Indian stores that sold nothing but cigarettes. He smoked Pall Malls and when she smoked, she smoked L&Ms. It all added up, a few dollars at a time. Neither of them drank very often and there were several bottles of liquor in the fruit cellar that salesmen had given Rob over the years.

o

The previous year when the fuel crisis had hit Rob had installed a 500-gallon farm tank of gasoline. There was a new preservative out called PRI-G that he added to the tank to keep the gas from getting old. She filled her tank and got the envelope with clothing money out for their trip to Flagstaff. She had increased the amount that went into that envelope when she'd learned she was expecting, babies needed more clothes than adults did and Rob had adjusted the household budget accordingly. Maybe someday, in 20 years or so, they could take another trip to Acapulco.

"Ready to go?"

"Yes, I gassed up the car last night."

"You should have said something, I could have done that."

"I'm not helpless, just pregnant. You can drive though; my tummy is getting in the way of the steering wheel."

"How are you doing on your weight?"

"The doctor said I'd gained a little so after I have the baby, I may join you jogging just to trim back down."

"Who will watch the baby?"

"Crap, I hadn't thought of that."

"You can jog in the evening after it cools down and I'll play nursemaid for a while."

"Would you? Great."

"While we're in Flagstaff, I've got to check on something."

"What?"

"I'm not totally satisfied with the security I have for our weapons, especially the class III weapons."

"What did you have in mind?"

"Some kind of vault in the Basement."

"Do you mean like a bank vault?"

"Something on that order, but I don't know that it would need 3' thick walls of concrete."

"How many do you have?"

"All guns or class III?"

"Class III."

"I have 12 each G-3s, FALs, and 6 M14s plus 6 suppressors."

"What about the non-class III?"

"Same quantity of AR-15s, HK91s, HK93, M1As, Mini-14s, 2 shotguns and my M-70 rifle."

"You forgot the handguns."

"Plus 6 M1911s and 3 Colt Commanders."

"I guess we're ready."

"Ready for what?"

"I don't know, but we're ready."

"I don't think so, Sue. Do you remember the bomb shelter craze of the '50s? It's the same world but we don't have a shelter or provisions for very long."

"Do you have a plan?"

"Not at the moment, no."

o

I told her the truth; I hadn't even given it any thought. That led to another thought; perhaps I could combine my need for a gun vault with our need for security. When they built Cheyenne Mountain, they used 25 ton blast doors. It was something to think about. I decided to do some research at the library.

The main entrance to the complex is approximately one-third of a mile (540 m) from the North Portal via a tunnel which leads to a pair of steel Blast Doors each weighing 25 tons. Behind the 25 ton blast doors is a steel building complex built within a 4.5 acre (18,000 m²) grid of excavated chambers and tunnels and surrounded by 2,000 feet (600 m) of granite. The main excavation consists of three chambers 45 feet (15 m) wide, 60 feet (20 m) high, and 588 feet (180 m) long, intersected by four chambers 32 feet (10 m) wide, 56 feet (17 m) high and 335 feet (100 m) long. Fifteen buildings, freestanding without contact with the rock walls or roofs and joined by flexible vestibule connections, make up the inner complex. Twelve of these buildings are three stories tall; the others are one and two stories.

The outer shell of the buildings is made of three-eighths-inch (9.5 mm) continuously welded low carbon steel plates which are supported by structural steel frames. Metal walls and tunnels serve to attenuate electromagnetic pulse (EMP). Metal doors at each building entrance serve as fire doors to help contain fire and smoke. Emphasis on the design of the structure is predicated on the effects of nuclear weapons; however, building design also makes it possible for the complex to absorb the shock of earthquakes.

Blast Valves, installed in reinforced concrete bulkheads, have been placed in the exhaust and air intake supply, as well as water, fuel, and sewer lines. Sensors at the North and South Portal entrances will detect overpressure waves from a nuclear explosion, causing the valves to close and protect the complex. All of the buildings in the complex are mounted on 1,319 steel springs, each weighing approximately 1,000 pounds (450 kg). The springs allow the complex to move 12 inches (300 mm) in any one direction. To make the complex self-sufficient, adequate space in the complex is devoted to support functions. A dining facility, medical facility with dental office, pharmacy and a two-bed ward; two physical fitness centers with exercise equipment and sauna; a small base exchange, chapel, and barber shop are all located within the complex.

Within the complex are all the utility systems necessary to make the facility functional. The primary supply of electrical power is supplied by the City of Colorado Springs. The

secondary source or back-up power supply is provided by six 1,750 kilowatt (2,800hp) diesel generators.

Water for the complex comes from an underground water supply inside Cheyenne Mountain. Today, 30,000 to 120,000 US gallons (100 to 450 m³) of water is deposited into four excavated reservoirs. Three of these reservoirs serve as industrial reservoirs and the remaining reservoir serves as the complex's primary domestic water source. All four reservoirs have the capacity to store 1.5 million US gallons (6,000 m³) of water. They are so large that workers sometimes cross them in rowboats.

Incoming air may be filtered through a system of chemical/biological/radiological (CBR) filters to remove harmful germs and/or radioactive and chemical particles. The fresh air intake is mainly from the south portal access which is 17½ feet (5.3 m) high and 15 feet (4.6 m) wide and linked to the north portal access which is 22½ feet (7 m) high and 29 feet (9 m) wide. The entire tunnel from north to south entry portals is nine-tenths of a mile (1.5 km) long.

◦

"Did you find what you wanted?"

"Where did you go?"

"The library, I wanted to get some information on NORAD; you know the complex at Cheyenne Mountain."

"I haven't noticed any mountains on our half section you could hollow out."

"I don't believe we'd have to dig down very far to hit rock, Sue. If I'm right, we could build a very large underground room and maybe connect it to the basement where we could put in some sort of vault door. I'll talk to Matt about it."

"You should speak to a geologist, Rob, what does Matt know about the ground around here?"

◦

I did as she asked and here's what he told me:

"Central Arizona lies across three geologic provinces, the Colorado Plateau, the Transition Zone, and the Basin and Range. The Sedona-Verde Valley Region encompasses the first two. The Colorado Plateau comprises mostly flat-lying sedimentary rocks that range in age from Cambrian through Tertiary. The southern escarpment of the Colorado Plateau, the Mogollon Rim (muggy-owen), averages 6,500 – 7,000 feet above sea level at the top of the rim. Elevations at its base range from 4,000-4,500 feet. The nearly flat-lying sedimentary rocks dip gently northward, usually less than 2f. Permian sedimen-

tary rocks and Miocene volcanic rocks form much of the Rim escarpment, although Cambrian, Devonian, Mississippian, and Pennsylvanian rocks are exposed in some of the deeper canyons.

"Verde Valley lies south of the Mogollon Rim in the Transition Zone. The crust here was stretched and broken slightly during Miocene extension in the Basin and Range orogeny; the Basin and Range is approximately 100 miles south. Verde Valley is a structural basin bounded by faults on its SW and NE margins. The faults dropped the bottom of the valley down relative to the Colorado Plateau to the north and the Black Range and Bradshaw Mountains to the south. The center of the valley is just above 3000 feet elevation. Mingus Mountain, the central, prominent element of the Black Range, exposes Precambrian, Cambrian, Devonian, Mississippian, Pennsylvanian, and Tertiary rocks. Central Verde Valley consists of Miocene and Pliocene sedimentary rocks that filled the basin as it subsided. The graphics and photos that follow provide a general guide to these rocks."

"So can I dig or not?"

"You can dig, but what you'll find when you do can only be guessed at."

"I appreciate your opinion, what do I owe you?"

"Call it \$100."

I paid the man, but I didn't know any more than I did before I asked. There was one way to find out, try and drive rod into the ground. The other way to find out was to ask a contractor about digging a hole.

"How big of a hole do you need?"

"About the size of a house and 22' deep."

"Man, that's more than 3,000 yards, it wouldn't be cheap. What do you want to do with the stuff we remove from the hole?"

"Dump it in a pile; we will eventually be backfilling the hole."

"Let me get this straight, you want a 3,000-yard plus hole in the ground that you're eventually going to back fill? Going bury something?"

"That's what I had in mind, yes."

"I can give you a better price if I do the back fill."

"Put together an estimate of doing it both ways."

o

"Hey Matt, good to see you. Wow, a redhead."

"Sarah Kelly meet Robert Miller; Rob, Sarah."

"Call me Rob, Sarah. Come in and I'll introduce you to Sue."

"Sue, this is Sarah Kelly, Matt's girlfriend; Sarah, my wife Susan."

"What lovely red hair and green eyes are you Irish Sarah?"

"Third generation. How far along are you?"

"I'm in my 7th month and my back is killing me."

"Hi Sue, see what happens when you don't take me up on a date?"

"What's that all about?" Sarah asked.

"Matt asked me out on a date and Rob proposed before I could accept."

"How long had you and Rob been dating?"

"Five years. How long have you known Matt?"

"About six months, I work for Greyhound in their Tower building (occupied in 1971)."

"How long have you worked for Greyhound?"

"Six years, I started with them in Chicago."

"Did they move you?"

"I wish."

o

Sarah had a good job with Greyhound in Chicago but the company didn't offer to move her. If she chose to move on her own, she could keep her job, however. Originally from New York, she didn't mind moving, she did want to see the country. She had come to Phoenix in 1971 and had recently been promoted to a lower level supervisory position. I finally got a chance to get Matt aside, under the excuse of dividing up the ammo, and I told him what I had in mind.

"A concrete bunker? The Cuban Missile Crisis was in '62 and the war is just ending. What are you thinking of?"

"Matt, I need a large vault to store my class III weapons. I mentioned that to Sue when we went to Flagstaff the other day and it occurred to me that we didn't have anything more than our basement for shelter. I talked to a geologist and didn't learn much about the area. I have a contractor working up a bid to excavate a hole about 50'x80'x22'."

"Why don't you rent a Bobcat or something and do it yourself?"

"I just might, it depends on how much he wants for the hole. Anyway, I was going to have a section of the basement wall cut out and install a vault door to access the bunker. The previous owner put up furring strips and knotty pine paneling in the basement."

"And you're going to hide the vault door behind the panel? I think you've seen too many movies."

"Let's move the ammo to your pickup."

o

Matt didn't seem to be too interested in my project and I chose not to bring it up again. The contractor came in with a bid of \$8,000 and I told him to go ahead. I drove down to Phoenix to find an architect who might have some experience building bunkers. I went through 3 or 4 guys before I found someone, Paul, who seemed to know what he was talking about. He told me that at the moment, the Swiss government was requiring shelters for everyone. There was a company over there that made blast doors, blast valves, air filtration systems, and chemical biological protection for home, corporate, military and government facilities.

I told Paul what I had done to date, the 50'x80'x22' hole in the ground and how I wanted to connect it to the basement of my house. He had a million questions, was the hole dry, how far from the house was it, etc. I invited him up to have a look. He got out his appointment book and said he could make it in about a week. I gave him directions to our place and said that if he needed to stay over, my wife and I would be glad to put him up.

o

"Well, it's not as big as the hole they dug for the World Trade Center in New York, but you could put a nice shelter in that hole. How much overburden were you planning on?"

"I want 9' of headroom inside the bunker, Paul. I want the bunker to be as large as we can make it given the size of the hole."

"What is your water source?"

"We have a well."

"Is it a good well?"

"It's not very large, but the water is good."

"Septic system?"

"Yes, the ground slopes down to the west and the outflow goes that way."

"I can do it, but I have to order stuff from Andair AG located in Andelfingen, Switzerland. That will be all cash, up front. We'd better plan on a water tank. I think I can do it for \$60,000."

"Dollars?"

"Mexico is a ways to the south, Rob. It's going to take a fair amount of concrete, the Swiss equipment and a couple of storage tanks. My commission for designing it is 10% of the cost."

"Is that on top of or included in the \$60,000?"

"Included. That should be a turnkey price; I have one contractor who I've worked with who can do the work. Do you have the money, or are you going to need to get financing?"

"If I cashed our mutual fund and CDs, I'd only have half of that, I'm going to need a bank loan, I suppose."

"They aren't likely to be too keen on financing a bunker."

"That's my new gun vault, Paul. I'll call you as soon as I get the loan, go ahead and start the plans."

"Just so you know, my fee will be about \$5,500 whether you build it or not."

"I understand. What about the vault door in the basement wall?"

"I included that in the price, we're going to need to cut out a section of the wall because the door frame must be cast in place."

"Would it be possible to conceal the vault door behind the knotty pine paneling?"

"I already planned on that. I sort of figured that's why you came to Phoenix instead of getting a firm in Flagstaff to do the work. You want this done with no one being the wiser, am I right?"

"On all counts."

"Fine, I'd better get back to Phoenix, call me when you have the financing arranged."

o

"Is it going to be expensive Rob?"

"\$60,000 for the bunker plus more for the gun shop I intend to build on top of the shelter. I'll go into Flagstaff tomorrow and talk to the bank. I expect we'll have to put up both businesses and the house as collateral."

"Is this a good time to do this?"

"I think so, we're in a recession and the loan rates are down."

What I was counting on was the stagnation in the economy brought on by the 1973 oil crisis. I pretty much knew what the bank would want to see and got my tax returns and the books of the corporation, the income statements from the gun shop and our portfolio together. What I had in mind was borrowing \$100,000 and using all of our sources of collateral. On paper, our net worth was about \$125,000 dollars.

I made my presentation to the bank and they told me that they'd check everything out and get back to me. They asked about the blueprints and I told them the architect was still working on them. About a month later I got a call, the loan was approved at a fixed rate equal to prime plus 1%, spread over a 15 year period. If you don't believe timing is everything, On July 5, 1974, the prime rate peaked to 12%. My loan was dated June 10, 1975, and the prime rate on that day was 7%, giving me an 8% interest rate on my loan. Little did I know that by late December of 1980, it would reach 21.50%. Although the prime rate went lower in the following months it started to climb soon after. Our payments were \$955.65 per month. While I also didn't know it at the time, the bank would offer incentives to get the loan paid off early. More about that later, when it happened.

When We Were Young – Chapter 2

2005:

January 4: Death of the Governor of Baghdad, Ali Al-Haidri, assassinated by gunmen.

January 13: Armed militants enter into Israel from Gaza and open fire near the border, killing 6 people and wounding 5 others. Hamas and Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades claim joint responsibility for attack.

January 16: Armed militants kill 1 person and wound 8 people in the Gush Katif settlement, Gaza Strip. Hamas claims responsibility.

January 30: A Royal Air Force C-130 Hercules transport plane crashes in Iraq, killing 10 British servicemen. Iraqi insurgents release a video claiming to have shot the aircraft down using a missile.

February 9: An ETA car bomb injures 31 people at a conference center in Madrid.

February 10: North Korea announces that it possesses nuclear weapons as a protection against the hostility it feels from the United States.

February 14: A massive suicide bomb blast in central Beirut kills Lebanon's former prime minister Rafik Hariri and at least 15 other people. At least 135 other people are also hurt.

February 19: Suicide bombers kill more than 30 people in Iraq as Shia Muslims mark Ashura, their holiest day.

February 25: Terrorists kill 5 people and wound 50 people in Tel Aviv, Israel. Islamic Jihad claims responsibility for attack.

March 4: The car of released Italian hostage Giuliana Sgrena is fired on by US soldiers in Iraq, causing the death of one passenger and injuring two more.

March 8: The Pakistani Army opens fire on aggressing insurgents in Baluchistan, the first armed uprising since General Rahimuddin Khan's stabilization of the province in 1978.

March 14: The People's Republic of China ratifies an anti-secession law, aimed at preventing Taiwan from declaring independence. Nearly one million people gathered for an opposition rally in Beirut, a month after the death of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri – the largest rally in Lebanon history.

March 19: A suspected suicide bomber in Doha, Qatar, kills one person and injures about 12 others. A time bomb explodes in a Muslim shrine in Quetta, southwestern Pakistan, killing at least 29 people and wounding 40.

March 24: The Tulip Revolution in Kyrgyzstan reaches its climax with the overthrow of president Askar Akayev. The Taiwanese government calls on 1 million Taiwanese to demonstrate in Taipei, in opposition to the Anti-Secession Law of Mainland China. Around 200,000 to 300,000 attend the walk.

April 7: A suicide bomber blows himself up in Cairo's Khan al Khalili market, killing two foreign tourists and wounding seventeen others. A group called "Islamic Pride Brigades" claims responsibility.

April 9: Tens of thousands of demonstrators, many of them supporters of Shia cleric Moqtada Sadr, marched through Baghdad denouncing the US occupation of Iraq, two years after the fall of Saddam Hussein, and rallied in the square where his statue was toppled in 2003.

April 18: Five people die in ethnic clashes in Iran's south-west Khuzestan province.

April 21: A gunfight on the edge of the Saudi city of Mecca kills two militants and two members of the security forces.

April 26: Facing international pressure, Syria withdraws the last of its 14,000 troop military garrison in Lebanon ending its twenty nine year military domination of that country.

April 30: Attacks on tourists in the Egyptian capital Cairo leave three militants dead and at least ten people injured.

May 1: A suicide attack targets a Kurdish funeral in the northern Iraqi town of Talafar, near Mosul, and leaves at least 25 people dead and more than 30 others injured. Earlier, at least five policemen and four civilians were killed in two separate attacks in Baghdad.

May 2: A blast at an illegal munitions store in northern Afghanistan kills 28 people and injures at least 13 others.

May 4: In one of the largest insurgent attacks in Iraq to date, at least 60 people have been killed and dozens wounded in a suicide bombing at a Kurdish police recruitment center in Irbil, northern Iraq.

May 5: Two homemade bombs explode outside the British consulate in New York City.

May 10: A hand grenade ostensibly thrown by Vladimir Arutinian lands about 100 feet (30 m) from US President George W. Bush while he is giving a speech to a crowd in Tbilisi, Georgia, but malfunctions and does not detonate.

May 13: Uzbek troops kill up to 700 during protests in eastern Uzbekistan over the trials of 23 accused Islamic extremists. President Islam Karimov defends the act.

July 7: Four explosions rock the transport network in London, three on the London Underground and one on a bus. 56 people died and over 700 were injured. Al-Qaeda admits to the killing of Egypt's Ambassador, Ihab al-Sherif.

July 12: Terrorists kill 5 people and wound 90 people in a crowded mall in Netanya, Israel. Islamic Jihad claims responsibility for attack.

July 14: A mortar fired from the Gaza strip kills Dana Galkowicz, in the Netiv Haasara Moshav.

July 21: A terrorist attack on London, similar to the July 7 attacks, includes 4 attempted bomb attacks on 3 Underground trains and a London bus. The bombs failed to explode properly, and only one injury was reported, later found out to be unconnected.

July 23: A series of bomb attacks targeting the Egyptian resort city of Sham el-Sheikh, located on the southern tip of the Sinai Peninsula. Eighty-eight people were killed and over 150 were wounded by the blasts, making the attack the deadliest terrorist action in the country's history. The bombing coincided with Egypt's Revolution Day, which commemorates Nasser's 1952 overthrow of King Farouk.

July 28: The Provisional IRA issues a statement formally ordering an end to the armed campaign it has pursued since 1969 and ordering all its units to dump their arms.

August 23: Israel's unilateral disengagement from 25 Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip and West Bank ends.

August 28: Terrorist wounds 52 at bus station in Beersheba, Israel. Islamic Jihad claims responsibility for attack.

August 31: A crowd crush on the Al-Aaimmah bridge in Baghdad kills several hundred civilians.

October 1: 26 people are killed and more than 100 are injured in the Bali bombings.

October 16: US helicopters and warplanes bomb two villages near Ramadi in western Iraq, killing about 70 people.

October 26: Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad calls for Israel to be "wiped off the map" at "World Without Zionism" conference in Tehran, Iran, and condemns peace process.

October 29: At least 61 people are dead and many others wounded in three powerful blasts in the Indian capital, Delhi.

November 8: French President Jacques Chirac declares a state of emergency on the 12th day of the French civil unrest.

November 9: At least fifty people are killed and more than 120 are injured in a series of coordinated suicide bombings in Amman, Jordan.

December 13: Mass riots in Sydney, Australia involving up to 5,000 youths.

December 23: Chad declares a State of war against Sudan following a December 18th attack on Adre, which left about 100 people dead.

◦

Two months after the loan was approved the shelter was in and back filled. About 6 weeks after that, my new class III gun store was open.

I was also the proud poppa of a 6 pound 2 ounce daughter Sue and I named Elizabeth Ann. Nixon had resigned and it appeared to me that President Ford was getting the economy turned around. I was now doing a very good business in what they were calling assault weapons. I also bid on surplus ammo and occasionally managed to pick up a large shipment of 7.62x51mm, 7.62x39mm, 5.56x45mm, 9mm and even .45 ACP.

Although Ford lost the election to Carter in 1976, I was making a lot of money and our retirement funds were growing by leaps and bounds. In 1977, Sue was expecting again and Matt and Sarah had finally set a date. The only people who knew about the shelter we built were the architect and contractor from Phoenix and the Ready-mix company who delivered the concrete. I ran my plan to build a block building over the shelter to use as a gun store and Paul told the Contractor to compact the earth especially good and pour the slab. I hired a masonry contractor from Flagstaff to put in the new gun store.

Our new baby was also a girl, and we named her Sara Melanie. Then in 1978, Dave offered to buy the Sedona gun store, I took the money and applied the entire amount to the principal of the loan, paying it off. At the time no one knew that the prime interest rate would go through the roof. I was Matt's Best Man and Sue was Sarah's Matron of Honor. Their wedding was in Vegas, a hurried up affair.

◦

When we built the building for the business, I divided the building into 2 sections with a block wall, creating a large section for my assault weapons business and a small section, maybe ¼ of the space for my class III business. I carried a lot of imported weapons, FALs, HK91s, HK93s, AR-15s, M1As, Mini-14s and various models of SKS, Kal-

ashnikov's, just to name a few. The class III business had many of the same weapons, but in the select fire models. I probably sold 50 semi-autos for every full-auto. I saved a lot of money and improved security at the same time, neither of the stores had any windows.

The class III store had a front door and door that opened into the other store which had both a front and a back door. The doors looked like ordinary steel doors, but they weren't, they were made out of aluminum armor plate. They also had extremely good locks, about 4 cuts above ordinary locks. The thing was we were 30 minutes away from any law enforcement so we had to provide our own security. That's when I installed a 60kw diesel generator in the. We had a home, two businesses and a fair amount of outside lighting to provide for, it was just a business expense. We also buried a 40,000 gallon double wall fiberglass Containment Solutions diesel tank and added 20,000 gallons of diesel fuel.

o

In November of 1979, two things happened, Sue told me she was pregnant again and the Iranians took our Embassy employees hostage. Little did I realize that she have the baby in half the time it took to end the hostage crisis. In December we invited Matt, Sarah and the kids up for a weekend.

"I see you've made up for lost time. Married 2 years and 3 kids?"

"I didn't know twins ran in her family. Remind me never to have 3 kids in diapers at the same time."

"Have you been watching the hostage crisis?"

"It looks to me like Ted Koppel has a new TV show, they're calling it *The Iran Crisis – America Held Hostage: Day xxx*. How's business?"

"Really good, but I'm sure something will come along and spoil it. How are you doing?"

"Only fair, Rob, too much competition in Phoenix. I have an offer on the business."

"A good offer?"

"Actually, yes. The guy's an idiot who thinks he can really improve sales with an advertising campaign."

"Take it and come to work for me."

"I'm tempted. I see you filled that hole back in."

"Yeah, it wasn't such a hot idea building a bunker. Come to the basement and we'll have a beer."

"Sue, Matt and I are going to the basement for a while."

"I see you haven't changed anything."

"You might be surprised. Budweiser or Coors?"

"Give me a Colorado Kool-aid. What did you mean, I might be surprised?"

"Here's your beer and here an ordinary Stanley garage opener, push the button."

"I'm pushing, but nothing is happening."

"Turn around."

The door opener activated a chain drive door opener that swung out a panel of the knotty pine wall. Behind the panel was a Swiss made PT Armored Double Leaf Blast Door that opened to a ramp leading to the shelter.

"What the heck? Did you build the shelter?"

"I did. The stores sit on top of where it's located."

"Why so far away?"

"I wanted a ramp entrance so we could easily take things in and out. It's an 8% grade, so be careful."

"Why double doors and why so wide?"

"Access. Last year I replaced the generator with a bigger 60kw unit. I'll open one of the doors and we can look the place over."

"How much cover over the bunker?"

"144", it has a conservative radiological protection factor of 35 trillion, 184 billion, 372 million, 88 thousand, 837. Let me tell you, it was a bitch getting the thing put in. They put in a new well, expanded the septic system, put in storage for water, compacted the soil and poured the slab for the store. I replaced the small diesel generator and put in a more appropriate size and a truckstop size tank."

"How big is it?"

"The inside dimensions are 44' wide by 72' long by 9' high. The lid is 12" thick. I put in a pair of air systems we got from the Swiss with filters and 3 bar blast valves. We could handle about 32 people without any crowding and up to 3 times that many based on the capacity of the air system."

"Posts?"

"Do you have any idea how much the roof weighs? Then there is 12' of soil on top of it plus the stores. On the far end, behind the kitchen are the generator room and the storeroom. We put in two large bedrooms with private baths plus two dorms and a combination living/dining/day room. I have a communications shack in that corner and have been thinking about getting an Apple II computer. I have a ham set, CB and business radios. The armory is part of the store room. I capitalized the bunker as a weapons vault."

"Are you a Ham now?"

"No, but I have the equipment. It's a used Collins KWM-2A Transceiver; it's supposed to be pretty good. I may upgrade if they ever come out with some really good solid state radios. I also have a Hallicrafters receiver and a Washington base station. The business radios are Motorola."

"Still driving those old Fords, huh?"

"I keep them up and there's nothing wrong with them. I may buy a diesel pickup one of these days but Sue's car only has 50,000 on it. Mark my words, one of these days they're going to figure out how to put digital computers in cars to control the engines and that will be a very sad day for America."

"Why?"

"Electro Magnetic Pulse. That is given off by nuclear weapons when they explode and it can take out all kinds of electronics. I have plenty of spare parts for the Fords and EMP or not, we won't be on foot."

"That's over my head, what about this job you offered?"

"You can run the class III business and do the gunsmithing, I run the Assault weapons business. It's all in our corporation now and you can buy in if you want. The shop is fully equipped and you should be able to work on anything."

"I'd clear enough to build a very nice house, but could it be connected to your shelter or would I need my own?"

"You realize that out in the sticks like we are, we use propane and not natural gas?"

"I saw your tank, what is it, 500-gallons?"

"I've been planning to replace it with a bigger tank and we could meter it if you don't want to bother with your own."

"We could go for years on a 5,000-gallon tank. I don't know, maybe that or a 3,000-gallon tank, it depends on what's available."

"How are you on inventory for the two stores?"

"I bought as many of the legal assault weapons as I could afford, Matt; those, magazines and surplus ammo. These are crazy times, I wouldn't be surprised if one of these days they try and outlaw assault weapons."

"Never happen, we have the 2nd Amendment."

"We had the 2nd amendment when they passed the NFA and the GCA68, but it didn't help much."

"Do you have many of the HK91s?"

"Through the end of 1978, only 3,814 had been imported. I probably got 60 of those, and 30 of those were this year. The HK93s aren't as popular; I've only bought 30 of those."

"What about FALs?"

"About the same."

"I've got a lot to think about and I'll have to talk with Sarah about making the move."

o

"We thought the two of you got lost, touring the shelter?"

"That plus I made Matt an offer I hope he can't refuse."

"Such as?"

"Accepting the offer he got for his business and moving here to Sedona to work with us."

"Matt, what did you say?" Sarah asked.

"That I'd talk it over with you and I'd let him know. We could build a new house Sarah and Rob offered to let me buy into the business."

"Could I get a nanny to help with the kids?"

"Is that all it would take for you to say yes?"

"Possibly."

"You can have a nanny regardless, Sarah, why didn't you say something?"

"Business has been bad and I didn't want to burden you."

"Is that a yes, Matt?"

"It's a maybe Rob. Let me see what I can do in Phoenix."

o

Matt called a few days later; the guy was wetting his pants trying to buy the business. He'd up the price slightly and told Matt that he could take all of his gunsmithing equipment and the class III inventory. Matt accepted his offer. The housing market was soft due to the interest rates and he didn't know if he could sell his house. However, he had a 10% interest rate and an assumable mortgage. I told him he'd better wait to list it until their new home in Sedona was done, or they'd be living in a motel or with us. It occurred to me that if they built their house on the other side of the business, we'd both have the same distance to the business and the shelter. Accordingly, I began making plans to extend the plumbing.

The motel sized septic tank was behind the shelter anyway and there wouldn't be any problem running lines to connect to the water tank or the septic system. Paul must have thought I was planning on putting in a housing development when he selected that septic tank. I called the propane dealer and all he had in stock at the moment was a used 5,500-gallon tank. He could order a new 3,300-gallon tank from California, but I told him just to get the old tank checked out and not bother. I also told him I'd fill it 500-gallons at a time and my new neighbor Matt would do the same.

Two weeks later, they were back up and Matt bought his entire corporate class III inventory to store in the armory or the store. He had, among other things, a pair of restored Browning M2HB machineguns. The problem had been getting barrels for them until he contacted a Canadian supplier who built the barrels. He also had a pair of Browning 1919A4s in like new condition that had been modified to accept the 7.62x51mm cartridge. Maybe that was why he wanted half of my pallet of ammo. Many M1919's were rechambered for the new 7.62NATO (7.62x51mm) round and served into the 1990s, as well as up to the present day in some countries. The US Navy also converted many to 7.62 mm, and designated them Mk 21 Mod 0; they were commonly used on river craft in the 60s and 70s during Vietnam.

You may recall that in May, Mt. St. Helens erupted laterally, killing 57 people. Please don't lose sight of the timeframe here, it was now the spring of 1980 and Jimmy Carter was President. I was ordering 2 of the M1As for every 1 I was selling; I wanted an inventory and planned to make money as the price climbed, as surely it would. One more thing I suppose I should mention, our wives informed us that 3 children each were more than enough and they had the belly button surgery done. The hostage crisis was in triple digits and had been for a while. Anyway, Matt and Sarah moved into their new house in late June of 1980. I was forced to allow Sue to get a nanny, too. Business was booming and in 1980, I purchased 120 of the HK91s but none of the HK93s.

Reagan finally won the Republican nomination for President, handily winning most of the primaries after an early defeat in the Iowa caucuses. During the convention, Reagan proposed a complex power-sharing arrangement with Gerald Ford as vice president, but nothing came of it. Instead, Reagan selected his opponent in the primaries, former Congressional Representative, UN ambassador, Envoy to China, RNC Chairman, and CIA director George H. W. Bush; although Bush had declared that he would never be Reagan's Vice-President.

Bush was many things Reagan was not – a lifelong Republican, a combat veteran and an internationalist with UN, CIA and China experience. Bush's economic and political philosophies were supposedly more moderate than Reagan's. Bush had referred to Reagan's supply-side influenced proposal for a 30% across-the-board tax cut as "voodoo economics." Reagan's showing in the televised debates boosted his campaign. He seemed more at ease, deflecting President Carter's criticisms with remarks like "There you go again." His most influential remark was a closing question to the audience, during a time of skyrocketing prices and high interest rates "Are you better off than you were four years ago?"

The really strange thing was that on the day he was inaugurated for his first term on 1/20/81, Iran released the hostages. I thought we were going to war in 1980 when Carter embargoed Russian grain shipments. I liked Carter, but not as President, he seemed to fumble the ball a lot. I thought that Reagan was a bit too conservative, but his talk of building a 600 ship Navy, could put pressure on the Soviets.

That same year, the CDC reported that five homosexual men in Los Angeles had a rare form of pneumonia seen only in patients with weakened immune systems (these were the first recognized cases of AIDS). In July, the Prince of Wales got married to Diana. Then, in August, PATCO went on strike and Reagan fired all 11,000 of the controllers who refused to return to work. Two of our jets shot down 2 Libyan jets over the Gulf of Sidra. In October someone assassinated Anwar Sadat. And, of course, everyone got one year older. 1981 was our best year ever and we purchased 300 of the HK91s and 60 of the HK93s.

o

1982 wasn't that good of a year, either from a business standpoint or from a world view. In January that plane crashed into the Potomac River and in March the Falklands War began. On the brighter side, they built the Vietnam Memorial in Washington DC. Don't get me wrong, we made money, good money, but H&K announced they were reducing the imports of the 2 rifles. As a result, our inventory of assault weapons began to shrink. I tried to load up on the M1As, but they were selling them as fast as they could make them.

All 4 of us were born in 1939 and in 1982, we all had our 43rd birthdays. We weren't even middle aged yet and our wives were looking for grey hairs. Elizabeth was born in '74, Sara in '77 and Julia in '80. You can tell, Liz was in 3rd grade and they're twins were born in '77 and the third baby, Matthew, in '79. Sara and the twins had started Kindergarten this year. Sue didn't use the envelope system any longer, it was too much trouble, but she kept close track of the checks she wrote.

There was another war in 1982, or did you forget? The Soviet Union occupied Afghanistan. The first Soviet troops were in Afghanistan since '79, but they got very serious when Brezhnev died. America got a new Hero too, John Rambo kicked Will Teasle's butt in *First Blood*. The movie cost \$14 million to make and grossed \$6.6 million opening weekend. The Soviets didn't leave Afghanistan until we sent over Rambo in '88. We sent him and they began to withdraw troops. They were out of there by February '89.

Wait, I'm ahead of myself, again. By '89, we'd be turning 50, let's not rush things. Besides, a whole lot of bad things happened between '82 and '89, plus a few good things. IBM brought out the PC and when they brought out the XT, I bought a computer for the business and a second for the house. It wasn't long before I upgraded the computers with a pair of 30Mb drives. I'm still using that computer in the business, by the way. I've replaced several HDDs, but it works just fine for what I use it for. Don't laugh, as of June 2006, IBM PC and XT models are still in use at the majority of US National Weather Service upper-air observing sites. The computers are used to process data as it is returned from the ascending radiosonde, attached to a weather balloon. They are being phased out over a several year period, to be replaced by the Radiosonde Replacement System.

o

'82 and '83 were recession years while the economy sorted itself out after the 21.5% prime interest rate in the Carter Administration. I suppose the biggest event I can remember from '83 is the bombing of the Marine Corps Barracks in Lebanon. Oh yeah, the movie *Flashdance* came out. In '84 Clara wanted to know where the beef was and Michael Jackson set his hair on fire. I think that was the year that the Russians boycotted the Olympics in LA. They had that chemical leak in India that killed about 6,000 people before it all ended. In '85 the last two kids started Kindergarten.

o

Not bad, 3 years in a single paragraph. The idea to train volunteers from the community to assist emergency service personnel during large natural disasters began. In February of 1985, a group of Los Angeles City officials went to Japan to study its extensive earthquake preparedness plans. The group encountered an extremely homogenous society that had taken extensive steps to train entire neighborhoods in one aspect of alleviating the potential devastation that would follow a major earthquake. These single-function neighborhood teams were trained in fire suppression, light search and rescue operations, first aid, or evacuation.

In September of 1985, a Los Angeles City investigation team was sent to Mexico City following an earthquake there that registered a magnitude 8.1 on the Richter scale and killed more than 10,000 people and injured more than 30,000. Mexico City had no training program for citizens prior to the disaster. However, large groups of volunteers organized themselves and performed light search and rescue operations. Volunteers are credited with more than 800 successful rescues; unfortunately, more than 100 of these untrained volunteers died during the 15-day rescue operation.

The lessons learned in Mexico City strongly indicated that a plan to train volunteers to help themselves and others, and become an adjunct to government response, was needed as an essential part of overall preparedness, survival, and recovery. As a result CERT was formed in 1986.

During 1984, a new business opened up in Utah, Utah Shelter Systems and they carried the Andair equipment. The survival equipment business was taking off and more than one happy camper wanted a main battle rifle for his survival gear. By this time the price on those H&K firearms started to slide up and I told everyone we were out of them. We weren't, but they'd be a good hedge against inflation and I didn't figure they'd be importing them for too many years. I should have been careful what I thought, a person sometimes pays for bad thinking.

o

The Firearm Owners Protection Act (FOPA) is a US federal law that revised many statutes in the GCA68. Allegations of abuse by ATF inspectors soon arose from the NRA and certain targeted Federal firearms licensees. The gun rights movement lobbied Congress to pass the FOPA to prevent the abuse of regulatory power – in particular, to address claims that the ATF was repeatedly inspecting FFL holders for the apparent purpose of harassment intended to drive the FFL holders out of business (as the FFL holders would constantly be having to tend to ATF inspections instead of to customers).

The Act mandated that ATF compliance inspections can be done only once per year and, at a minimum, must be done once every 3 years. An exception to the "once per year" rule exists if multiple record-keeping violations are recorded in an inspection, in which case the ATF may do a follow-up inspection. The main reason for a follow-up inspection would be if guns could not be accounted for.

A last-minute provision that was added to the act prevents the ATF from accepting the federal tax mandated by the National Firearms Act for the civilian registration of a fully-automatic firearm, automatic sear, drop-in sear, or similar device which provides fully automatic fire, the date of manufacture for which was after May 19, 1986. This effectively banned their manufacture except for law enforcement, military, or export, which require different registration forms. However, fully automatic firearms and sears manufactured and registered with ATF prior to May 19, 1986, can still be transferred to private citizens after payment of the \$200 transfer tax.

While the name of the act may seem contradictory at first in light of its effectively restricting some firearms, the provision to protect traveling individuals, along with familiarity of a common occurrence in the American legislative process, helps clarify the provisions of the act. The act as introduced by its sponsors originally did not contain the language that effectively banned the manufacture of automatic firearms for civilian ownership; that portion was added later by legislators and signed into law by President Reagan.

One of the law's provisions was that persons traveling from one state to another for a shooting sports event or any other lawful activity cannot be arrested for a firearms offense in a state that has strict gun control laws if the traveler is just passing through (short stops for food and gas) the more restrictive state and the firearms and ammunition are securely locked, unloaded, and not immediately accessible.

An example of this would be that someone driving from Virginia to an IPSC competition in Vermont with a locked hard case containing an unloaded handgun and a box of ammunition in the trunk could not be prosecuted in New Jersey for illegal possession of a handgun provided that he did not stop in New Jersey for an extended period of time.

The act also forbade the US Government or any agency of it from keeping a registry directly linking non-NFA firearms to their owners, the specific language of this law (Federal Law 18 USC 926 (2) (a)) being: No such rule or regulation prescribed after the date of the enactment of the Firearms Owners Protection Act may require that records required to be maintained under this chapter or any portion of the contents of such records, be recorded at or transferred to a facility owned, managed, or controlled by the United States or any State or any political subdivision thereof, nor that any system of registration of firearms, firearms owners, or firearms transactions or disposition be established. Nothing in this section expands or restricts the Secretary's authority to inquire into the disposition of any firearm in the course of a criminal investigation.

The older GCA68 prohibits firearms ownership in the United States of America by certain broad categories of individuals thought to pose a threat to public safety. However, this list differed between the House and the Senate versions of the bill, and led to great confusion. This list was later augmented, modified, and clarified in the Firearm Owners Protection Act of 1986. The 1986 list is:

- Anyone who has been convicted in any court of, a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding 1 year.
- Anyone who is a fugitive from justice.
- Anyone who is an unlawful user of or addicted to any controlled substance.
- Anyone who has been adjudicated as a mental defective or has been committed to a mental institution.
- Any alien illegally or unlawfully in the United States or an alien admitted to the United States under a nonimmigrant visa.
- Anyone who has been discharged from the Armed Forces under dishonorable conditions.
- Anyone who, having been a citizen of the United States, has renounced his or her citizenship.
- A person who is under indictment or information for a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year cannot lawfully receive a firearm. Such person may continue to lawfully possess firearms obtained prior to the indictment or information.

These provisions are stated in the form of questions on Federal Form 4473.

Firearm Owners Protection Act is an oxymoron if there ever was one. Matt and I must have spent a full day reading the Act and then had an attorney go over it. The American Public had just gotten screwed by the government, again. The law set a finite quantity to our class III inventory, eliminating anything made after May 19, 1986 except for LEOs and military. By military, I meant the US government, not your average grunt. It was all in one part of the sentence, **manufactured and registered with ATF prior to May 19, 1986**. Instead of curtailing ATF involvement in our lives, they just increased it by creating a whole new class of criminals.

As it was the ATF drug their feet almost to the point where you got tired of waiting for the stamp for your gun. What if there was an error in their records? A legally registered class III weapon changing hands could land you in jail if they somehow didn't have a record of the gun. Couldn't happen? Wait and see... I kept the papers in a safe, if you lost them you had problems before, but they wouldn't land you in jail. Now they would.

A smart man had to figure that if they did this, they had more plans. We sunk all of the money we had into imported semi-auto rifles and magazines. I told Matt they'd probably pass a law outlawing everything over 7 rounds. I picked 7 rounds because that was that capacity of the M1911 magazine and there were probably millions of those magazines bouncing around. It later turned out that I didn't miss it by far, they went to 10-round magazines, but there I go again getting ahead of myself. If the drunk from Massachusetts had his way, they would have outlawed semi-automatics altogether.

We weren't through with Dutch yet, he got reelected in '84 because the Dems didn't have anyone to run against him. The campaign of 1984 also featured one of Reagan's most famous gaffes, *My fellow Americans, I'm pleased to tell you today that I've signed legislation that will outlaw Russia forever. We begin bombing in five minutes*, spoken as a sound check prior to a radio address. He was unaware that the joke would be heard

by the public. Reagan was a shoo-in with a woman as the Dems vice presidential candidate. Maybe she was an honest lady even though she was a politician, but her husband apparently wasn't, as we'd learn later.

Ferraro was bedeviled by her inconsistency. In July '84, she said she would release both her and her husband's tax returns. Yet a month later she backtracked and said she would release only her returns. Then she backtracked again, saying her husband would release "a financial – a tax statement" on August 20. But she must not have consulted her husband, because Zaccaro initially refused. Finally he agreed to make public his tax returns from 1979 to 1984, after Republican attacks detracted from his wife's campaign.

I liked that campaign, I figured it was a no lose proposition for the Republicans. That didn't last long, the Iran-Contra Affair (also called the Iran-Contra Matter and Irangate) was the biggest political scandal in the United States during the 1980s. It involved several members of the Reagan Administration who in 1986 helped sell arms to Iran, an avowed enemy, and used the proceeds to fund the Contras, an anti-communist guerrilla organization in Nicaragua. After the arms sales were revealed in November 1986, President Reagan appeared on national television and denied that they had occurred. But a week later, on November 13, he returned to the airwaves to affirm that weapons were indeed transferred to Iran. He denied that they were part of an exchange for hostages. He may have been in the first stages of Alzheimer's disease, who knows. The one really good thing I thought he did was to make Jelly Bellies a national institution.

o

Life wasn't without its trials but we managed to make it to the Gulf War aka Desert Storm. We'd all gotten through '89 by sharing the same set of black Age 50 junk and a present from President Bush, an assault weapons import ban. The Berlin Wall, an iconic symbol of the Cold War, was initially constructed starting on August 13, 1961 and dismantled in the weeks following November 9, 1989. Part of the Iron Curtain, the Berlin Wall was the most prominent part of the GDR border system.

However, the creation of the Wall was a propaganda disaster for East Germany and for the communist bloc as a whole. It became a key symbol of what Western powers regarded as Communist tyranny, particularly after the high-profile shootings of would-be defectors. Political liberalization in the late 1980s, associated with the decline of the Soviet Union, led to relaxed border restrictions in East Germany, culminating in mass demonstrations and the fall of the East German government. When a government statement that crossing of the border would be permitted was broadcast on November 9th, masses of East Germans approached and then crossed the wall, and were joined by crowds of West Germans in a celebratory atmosphere. The Wall was subsequently destroyed by a euphoric public over a period of several weeks, and its fall was the first step toward German reunification, which was formally concluded on October 3, 1990.

As the Soviet Union was unraveling, President Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev declared a US-Soviet strategic partnership at the summit of July 1991, decisive-

ly marking the end of the Cold War. President Bush declared that US-Soviet cooperation during the Persian Gulf War in 1990-1991 had laid the groundwork for a partnership in resolving bilateral and world problems. And despite winning the Gulf War, Bush lost the '92 election. Ever notice how when you get older, time seems to speed up? The lingering recession caused by Reagan's cuts and one little slip of the lip cost him the election, *Read My Lips, No New Taxes*.

The Federal Assault Weapons Ban, or AWB, was a provision of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, a federal law of the US that included a prohibition on the sale of semiautomatic assault weapons manufactured after the date of the ban's enactment. The ten-year ban was passed by Congress on September 13, 1994 and was signed into law by President Clinton the same day. I was wrong, the magazine limit was 10 rounds and it only applied to large capacity magazines manufactured after the ban went into effect.

Classification of assault weapons has proven extremely difficult since there is no basic functional difference between the types of firearms targeted for these bans and many very common hunting and target-shooting firearms. Any semi-automatic firearm that accepts a detachable magazine can discharge as rapidly as any other based on the same action. This led those who supported regulation to target the appearance of these weapons rather than their function.

Cosmetic features such as bayonet mounts, flash suppressors, and barrel shrouds were seen as military features. Once these features were banned, manufacturers simply had to slightly alter the designs and manufacture new, now legal versions. For example, the AB-10 is a post-ban version of the TEC-9, made legal by changing the name and removing the (cosmetic) barrel shroud and barrel threading; the XM-15 is an AR-15 made legal by changing the name and removing the flash suppressor and bayonet lug; post-ban semi-automatic AK-47s are sold under different names with the bottom of the pistol-grip attached to the stock, creating a "thumbhole stock." Features varied from weapon type to weapon type, making the identification of "illegal" weapons difficult.

Muzzle brakes were ruled "legal" by the ATF a short time after the ban went into effect. These muzzle attachments were legal to attach to a threaded barrel, so long as it was welded in place. The sheer number of exceptions, and legal gray areas made the determination of "pre-ban" and "post-ban" weapons difficult for both the consumer and law enforcement. This in part contributed to the demise of the AWB.

Yet the gun industry easily found ways around the law and most of these weapons are now sold in post-ban models virtually identical to the guns Congress sought to ban in 1994. Others claim that the gun manufacturers were following both the letter and the spirit of the law by removing exactly what the law banned.

The Violence Policy Center blames technicalities. "Soon after its passage in 1994, the gun industry made a mockery of the federal assault weapons ban, manufacturing 'post-ban' assault weapons with only slight, cosmetic differences from their banned counter-

parts. The VPC estimates that more than one million assault weapons have been manufactured since the ban's passage in 1994." A notable argument against this is that the VPC changed their definition of "assault weapon" after the ban was passed, so that weapons which looked like the banned weapons were also "assault weapons".

o

"How does the ban affect us, Rob?"

"It doesn't, Sue. All of our magazines are pre-ban and we really loaded up. We'll probably run out before the law sunsets, but more of the pre-ban magazines will come on the market. The guns we have that we can't sell will need to be modified to conform to the ban, but that won't be a problem."

"Are we circumventing the law?"

"No, we're following it to the letter. It's a dumb law and poorly written. Unless a firearm is named by name, we don't have a problem. I want to buy some suppressors for law enforcement and we'll hold them in inventory or find a way to legally transfer them to the corporation, the lawyer is working on doing that."

"Are you going to add anything to the line you carry?"

"Matt and I were talking about adding Barrett rifles, principally the M82A1 civilian version. Barrett also has a line of ammo loaded for him by IMI and we'd better get that before he sells out. We'll carry the post-ban magazines for the law enforcement customers and sell the pre-ban magazines to our regular customer and new customers. I didn't want to get into the LEO business, but this stupid law doesn't give us much choice."

"I need to change the subject, Liz has a date Saturday night and she's concerned you'll object."

"Do you know the boy?"

"Yes, he seems very nice. You know his folks, the Adams."

"I know the kid you're talking about, smart, plays basketball, a guard I think. I don't see why not, where are they going to a movie?"

"School dance."

"Even better, they'll have chaperones, but I don't think they need chaperones, she's 17 years old and a Junior, we're going to have to cut the apron strings."

"I know, but she was afraid you might be overly concerned."

"What meet the boy at the door with a machine gun? No, she's been raised right and has to be able to make her own decisions. It won't be that long before she's off to college, assuming she wants to go."

When We Were Young – Chapter 3

2006:

January 4: Powers are transferred from Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to his deputy, Vice Premier Ehud Olmert, after Sharon suffers a massive hemorrhagic stroke.

January 25: Hamas wins the majority of seats in the Palestinian Legislative Council elections.

February 22: A blast heavily damages the Al Askari Mosque, a Shiite holy site in Samarra, Iraq, causing a wave of protests and counterattacks across Iraq.

February 24: A state of emergency is declared in the Philippines after an alleged coup d'etat against President Gloria Arroyo is foiled.

March 7: Fifteen people die and many others are injured in three blasts throughout Varanasi, India.

April 11: President of Iran Mahmoud Ahmadinejad confirms that Iran had successfully produced a few grams of 3.5% low-enriched uranium.

April 17: A suicide bombing by Islamic Jihad in Tel Aviv kills nine people, injures dozens.

April 22: Four Canadian soldiers are killed 75 kilometers north of Kandahar, Afghanistan by a roadside bomb planted by Taliban militants, the worst one-day combat loss for the Canadian army since the Korean War.

April 24: Three explosions in a tourist section of Dahab, Egypt kill 30 and injure over 115.

May 4: A new coalition government takes office in Israel, with four political parties, which together hold 67 of the 120 seats in the Knesset.

May 8: Fighting between Palestinian factions leave one Fatah gunman and two Hamas gunmen dead.

May 17: Captain Nichola Gaddard of the 1st RCHA becomes Canada's first female casualty since World War II, and Canada's first female combat arms casualty.

June 3: Seventeen men are arrested in the Greater Toronto Area for alleged ties to a terrorist plot to blow up targets in the region.

June 7: Al-Qaeda terrorist Abu Musab al Zarqawi and seven of his aides are killed in Iraq during a US air raid just north of the town of Baqouba.

June 9: An explosion kills eight Palestinian civilians on a Gaza beach. Four days later, after an investigation, Israel very strongly denies any responsibility for the blast.

June 23: In Miami, the FBI arrests seven men, accusing them of planning to bomb the Sears Tower and other attacks in Miami, Florida.

June 28: Israel begins Operation Summer Rains, the series of ongoing battles between Palestinian militants and the Israel Defense Force (IDF). The flashpoint of large-scale operations was the kidnapping of Gilad Shalit by Hamas on June 25 in response to a double-kidnapping by Israeli operatives on June 24 of Palestinians.

July 4: North Korea test fires at least seven missiles including a long-range Taepodong-2.

July 11: A series of coordinated bomb attacks strikes several commuter trains in Mumbai (Bombay), India during evening rush hour.

July 12: Israel begins Operation Just Reward (later called Operation Change of Direction) in response to Hizbollah kidnapping two Israeli soldiers. Hezbollah declares open war against Israel two days later.

July 28: Six persons were shot and one woman was killed in a shooting in the Seattle Jewish Center.

July 31: HAMAS stormed the UN compound in Gaza City injuring 5. Israel initiated a 48 hour period suspending air strikes after an attack on Qana killed 37 children. The people of Iran are entitled to produce their own nuclear fuel, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said on Sunday, rejecting the terms of a draft UN resolution that demands it give up its nuclear work. "The people of Iran, in accordance with international norms and laws, have the right to take advantage of peaceful nuclear technology," he told a news conference in Tehran. The UN passed the resolution. The French indicated they would lead the multinational force in southern Lebanon. Suspected rebels ambushed an army patrol, exploded a car bomb in the capital and another bomb in Colombia's southwest Monday, killing at least 18 people in a wave of attacks a week before the presidential inauguration.

August 1: Soldiers from North Korea and South Korea exchanged fire along their border late Monday, but no one was hurt, a South Korean military official said Tuesday.

o

"Actually, she's been trying to wrangle an appointment to one of the Military Academies."

"What? I don't see her as a soldier. Which one?"

"The Coast Guard Academy."

"Oh, they're only military during times of war. I won't say no, but I think we should think about this. What's the boyfriend plan to do for college?"

"US Naval Academy. He has an appointment lined up through a Congressman his father knows."

"Who?"

"Jon Kyl."

"I don't know him, but I've met McCain. Tell her to write to both of them and if it will help I make some calls."

"No problem on the date, though?"

"I'd like to meet the Adams boy, but no objections."

o

I didn't envy Matt; He had twin daughters and a son. He had this to look forward to and twins could spell double trouble. Besides there was trouble afoot, terrorists had tried to blow up the World Trade Center last year. That had been the first major terrorist attack on our country, but if it was any indication, there would probably be more.

The thing I most remember about the Bush administration was his attempt to feed the people of Somalia. In August 1992 the US initiated Operation Provide Relief (UNOSOM I) to provide humanitarian relief for the people. Other Western nations also contributed to this airlift and the UN sent some troops to oversee the operation. However most of the food was looted directly on landing of these planes. This made the operation a failure and the UN therefore asked its members for assistance.

In December 1992 as President Bush was preparing to leave office, he proposed to help under the restriction that the US Combat troops would lead the operation. After the UN accepted this offer 25,000 US troops were deployed to Somalia and the mission was renamed to Operation Restore Hope and became UNOSOM II.

Following the failure of Operation Restore Hope and beginning in 1993, a two-year UN effort (primarily in the south) was able to alleviate famine conditions. The UN contingent included some US troops, some of whom were killed in fighting (along with hundreds of Somalis) after crashing a helicopter in Mogadishu. President Clinton then decided to withdraw the American forces.

In the spring of '95, Elizabeth and her steady both graduated from High School. She'd gotten that appointment to the Coast Guard Academy all on her own and we were very proud of her. Did I miss not having a son? A little, yes, but Liz more than made up for it. She was an attractive young woman and not totally a tom boy. Liz could shoot any weapons Matt and I had, accurately. She also went to Flagstaff and took martial arts classes. Any young man who let her looks deceive him was in for a rude surprise.

The AWB was an indirect boon to business. Pre-ban magazines were hard to come by and the prices jumped dramatically. Matt and I sold a few class III weapons to law enforcement but stopped advertising our automatic weapons. Some of them and some of the Assault weapons skyrocketed in price. That more than made up for our declining sales.

Our mutual fund was such that we didn't need to worry about retiring when the time came. Sue and I kept rolling the CDs into larger denominations and longer terms, some for up to 8 years. We could have earned more on our money, but there was risk associated with doing so.

o

Matt hadn't been idle in the intervening years, he built a shelter about the same size as ours but it was dedicated to storage. We had accumulated so much stuff in the 15 plus years since they had moved here, there wasn't room for it in the shelter Sue and I built. It was smaller, 40' square and only had one Andair setup, the 150 with 3 bar blast valves. It was built in the area in front of the store and connected to the large tunnel complex.

I was very happy I'd decided to put in ramps instead of stairs, we began to store food, munitions and extra hand tools, deep in our guts we knew something was brewing. There was now a new means of communication called the world wide web or internet. Matt and I bought a server from Dell and put in a T-1 line to maintain a small website advertising some of the merchandise we carried in the assault weapons store.

The web was fun and as it grew, I noticed more and more companies with web sites advertising survival supplies. Some of those weapons we'd only paid \$400-\$600 for were now worth over \$2,000! We had more than enough competition on the internet and I searched our competitors' sites looking for bargains. I found more than a few and we improved our inventory by buying retail in large quantities, thereby getting nearly wholesale prices.

The next few years were a succession of high school graduations, our kids, their kids and sometimes both. It wasn't long before I had 2 kids in college and Matt had 3. We sent them to state universities, who could afford the private schools?

Liz graduated from the CGA in New London in '99 and was assigned to a cutter on the Gulf Coast. Jim Adams graduated from the US Naval Academy and was assigned to a

DDG as one of the junior ensigns. We half expected them to get married or at least engaged, but that didn't happen. She was in one place and he another, they talked it over, apparently, and decided to wait and see what they wanted to do when they complete their 5-year obligations in 2004.

◦

'98 and '99 were wild years, there was the Y2K scare, that was very good for business, and we heard the first rumblings about the immigration problem and a new gang in LA called Mara Salvatrucha or MS-13. I don't believe that gang was in the public eye much at the turn of the century, but we got warnings because they used class III weapons imported from El Salvador.

Sara graduated in 2001 and said she wanted to go to grad school. Her goal was to get a PhD in Paleontology. That's right, dinosaur bones – it is the study of the fossil record of past geological periods and of the phylogenetic relationships between ancient and contemporary plant and animal species. Julia was in school in Phoenix studying liberal arts, whatever that is.

◦

That almost brings us to the present, it's been a long journey, but wait, it's 2006 and I still have a few things to fill you in on. I didn't mention a few things that happened along the way because they upset me just thinking about them. Maybe I can give you a clue and let you fill in the details yourself: Oklahoma City, Waco and Ruby Ridge.

"What are you doing?"

"Make notes, recounting how life was up to this point."

"We are beginning to get old, aren't we?"

"Sue, you're only as old as you feel. We're physically in good shape and don't have to take pills, yet. We're in the same condition financially, better off than most, I suppose. Two of our three kids have graduated from college, although I think Sara is going to make college an occupation. Y2K didn't turn out to be the problem everyone thought it would be, but it was very good for business. What do you say is it time for the trip to Acapulco, yet?"

"That was fun, wasn't it?"

"Yes, but we were younger then, don't expect the same performance from me now."

"I'll settle for quality over quantity any day."

We started to make plans to go back to Acapulco for Christmas of 2001. Somebody else had other plans in mind and the trip never got made. I'm sure you saw it all on TV, we did. Bin Laden claimed they never thought the towers would fall; I didn't believe him. He said a lot of things, very few were credible. Sara started grad school in the fall of 2001 and Julia decided on a real major – English; she said she thought maybe she'd teach high school.

Sara got married, too and I offered to give them \$10,000 if they would just elope. If Sue had heard about that, she'd have killed me, but I figured I'd be money ahead. The kids were smart; they took me up on the offer. I can tell you Sue was frustrated beyond belief. She got even, however, when she gave them a check for \$10,000 as a wedding present. I didn't complain I was still \$10,000 ahead. \$10 grand is a lot of money, but when you have rifles in inventory you paid \$400 for and they're worth \$2,500, you realize that money isn't worth what it once was worth.

o

Since we're talking current events here, I think I'll stop with the history lesson. There isn't a whole lot to tell, James decided to make a career out of the Navy and Liz got out of the Coast Guard in 2004 and came home. Apparently that romance ended too, Jim married a woman he met in Norfolk.

It was Sunday and after church, we decided to inventory the goods we had stored in the shelter and the store room. I printed out a list I had on my Dell E310 and we went to work. The list was about 25 pages long and it included all of the food, guns by serial number and the miscellaneous supplies we'd put up for a rainy day.

I'd heard the market was shelling out and had cashed out the Mutual Fund, converting the money into gold and silver in '99. I hit the sweet spot in the market, gold was going for \$260 an ounce and silver a little over \$5. I'd been in that Mutual Fund ever since we'd gotten married and we had more than enough to retire on. With terrorism the new game in town, my gold which was hovering in the \$300s could only become more valuable. Sometimes, dumb luck is the best kind to have.

"How old is that stuff?"

"The date is on the pails, we put that up in '76."

"Do you think it is still good?"

"Rice preserved in nitrogen? It will probably last 100 years. We didn't start to buy survival foods until the early nineties when Nitro Pak and Walton Feed popped up on the web."

"What's in the cooler?"

"MREs."

"Do we have many of those?"

"Nope, one case per person, even cooled, they won't last forever."

o

09/19/2002

WASHINGTON (AP) – The United States is poorly prepared for a bio-terrorism attack on farm animals, crops and the food supply, a panel of scientists concluded Thursday. It blamed this situation on a communications gap between intelligence agencies and among agriculture officials, farm groups and universities. The Agriculture Department commissioned the report by the National Academy of Sciences but – fearing that it would be used as a manual for terrorists – fought its release until discussions of specific threats were excised. The panel of 12 scientists which wrote the report concluded that the nation is more prepared for an accidental outbreak of potentially catastrophic diseases such as foot-and-mouth among cattle than one triggered by terrorists.

The academy's National Research Council said that while working on its analysis, "Countering Agricultural Bioterrorism," questions arose over what scientific information about terrorism should and shouldn't be made public. But when the National Academies met with the department and the Office of Homeland Security, "the government did not assert that the report contained classified information," the council wrote.

Scientists also had reservations about the report, said William E. Coalglazier, executive officer for the National Academy of Sciences, an independent research group chartered by Congress to guide the government on scientific matters.

"Clearly the academy does not want to provide a road map for terrorists," Coalglazier said. Because the council used some classified documents for the assessment, the National Academies decided to remove information from a section that described specific case studies, Coalglazier said. Only government officials can access those excluded details.

"The guidance that we were sort of using in our heads was if there was specific information that could perhaps be used to harm the public, then we would exclude it," Coalglazier said. Although the classified information was excluded, the analysis concluded that the United States has a lot of work to do to ensure farms and communities are protected from bio-terrorism.

Scientists and farm groups became worried the United States wouldn't be able to contain an outbreak when foot-and-mouth disease infected livestock herds in Britain last year. Although the disease doesn't harm humans, an outbreak can disrupt the economy and cost millions of dollars to control and eradicate.

The terrorist attacks and appearance of anthrax-laden letters in 2001 added to concerns that diseases like mad cow disease could be used as weapons to poison food supplies, harm people, and sink the economy. The scientists pointed out several problems, but were particularly critical of gaps in communication between agricultural and intelligence officials, farm groups, and universities – all of which have a role in helping farmers and the public cope with food and farm security threats.

The council recommended that the government immediately:

- Increase its efforts to understand plant and animal diseases and how they spread.
- Establish a network of laboratories that would respond, detect and diagnose diseases.
- Form a nationwide system to manage and collect bio-terrorism information.

Although a bio-terrorist attack seems unlikely, "it's not a matter of 'if', it's a matter of 'when'," said R. James Cook, a committee member from Washington State University. "What's important to keep in mind, though, is that while there may be a very low probability now, what about in 20 years?"

WASHINGTON, Sept. 4 (UPI) – Government scientific advisers and officials painted a grim picture Thursday of the consequences of a terror attack on the nation's power grid, saying that any outage that lasted longer than a couple of days would reduce urban centers to chaos and collapse the economy.

"With power out beyond a day or two, both food and water supplies would soon fail. Transportation systems would be at a standstill ... natural gas pressure would decline and some would lose gas altogether – not good in the winter time ... Communications would be spotty or non-existent. ... All in all, our cities would not be very nice places to be... Martial law would likely follow," Paul H. Gilbert of the National Research Council told a congressional panel.

Lawmakers on the House Homeland Security Committee were trying to see what lessons about the nation's security could be drawn from the massive Aug. 14 power outage, which left 50 million people in the United States and Canada without electricity for – in some cases – up to three days.

But Gilbert said that recovery from an outage caused by a deliberate attack could "take weeks or months rather than hours or days."

Such frightening scenarios are not the product of a nightmarish imagination. Gilbert's analysis was based on the work of a high-level brains trust within the National Academies. Nearly 200 scientists, experts and officials worked for six months on the report he cited as the basis for his assessment.

Nor is such an attack beyond the realm of reality. Larry A. Mefford, counter-terror chief of the FBI, told the panel that, "Al Qaeda and other terrorist groups are known to have considered energy facilities ... as possible targets."

While cautioning that there was "no specific, credible intelligence about threats" to the nation's power infrastructure, he said that methods of attack could range from blowing up pylons or power stations to sophisticated cyber-attacks on the automated computer-run elements of the grid.

"That would depend on their infrastructure in this country and the extent of their knowledge of the grid," he told United Press International, adding that a successful assault is "a lot easier than we wish it were."

John McCarthy, director of the Critical Infrastructure Protection Project at George Mason University, described how a student of his – using information in the public domain – had created a comprehensive map of the nation's entire fiber optic cable network as part of his Ph.D. dissertation.

The document so alarmed officials – one described it as "a road map for terrorists" – that they wanted to classify it. His student was "very, very smart," said McCarthy, but his work could be replicated for the power grid. "I am convinced there are equally smart people looking at our infrastructure who don't have our best interests at heart."

Some lawmakers were impatient that – nearly two years after the terror attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, and six months after it had been established – the Department for Homeland Security had not yet completed one of its primary tasks – a comprehensive survey of the nation's critical infrastructure and its vulnerabilities. "We understand they're working on that," Mefford said.

My take on this new Department of Homeland Security is that they may have gotten the name wrong. Maybe they should call it the Department of Homeland Insecurity. Rep. Christopher Cox, R-Calif., pointed out that without a comprehensive assessment of the nation's weak spots it was hard to know where the country needed defending.

"In the absence of that it seems you would have a very difficult time knowing where our priorities should be and where we should spend our limited dollars."

Gilbert said that the August outage could have lasted much longer, and pointed out that it exposed the weakness of the "fragile" power grid, which had "little reserve within which to handle power or load fluctuations."

o

This year's world grain harvest is projected to fall short of consumption by 61 million tons, marking the sixth time in the last seven years that production has failed to satisfy demand. As a result of these shortfalls, world carryover stocks at the end of this crop

year are projected to drop to 57 days of consumption, the shortest buffer since the 56-day-low in 1972 that triggered a doubling of grain prices.

World carryover stocks of grain, the amount in the bin when the next harvest begins, are the most basic measure of food security. Whenever stocks drop below 60 days of consumption, prices begin to rise. It thus came as no surprise when the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) projected in its June 9 world crop report that this year's wheat prices will be up by 14 percent and corn prices up by 22 percent over last year's.

This price projection assumes normal weather during the summer growing season. If the weather this year is unusually good, then the price rises may be less than those projected, but if this year's harvest is sharply reduced by heat or drought, they could far exceed the projected rises.

With carryover stocks of grain at the lowest level in 34 years, the world may soon be facing high grain and oil prices at the same time. For the scores of low-income countries that import both oil and grain, this prospect is a sobering one.

The 2006 world grain harvest of 1,984 million tons, estimated by the USDA in its June crop report, is down 24 million tons from last year, or roughly one percent. It is down three percent from the historical high of 2,044 million tons produced in 2004.

I can tell you that the Rice harvest will be down no less than 30% in South West Louisiana. Between:

1. The Salt Water Intrusion of Hurricane Rita, all land south of US Hwy 90 was not planted this year;
2. Add another 5-10% of that crop acreage that didn't get planted due to Farmers going out of business by not getting their bank loans, or
3. They refused the bank loan knowing they would just go deeper in debt and couldn't survive to harvest time with the higher fuel prices breaking their set budgets.

Sure the Arkansas crop may be great this year to supply our area with some grain, but that will cost at least \$1.00 per 100# to get it to the Mills in SW Louisiana to stay busy. The \$1.00 per 100# was the price to send by rail in 2001-2002, before the higher fuel cost of 2006... ..so do the math. So not only will farmers go out of business, it may force more of the Rice Mills also. It's already expected to be a tough time for the Rice Industry in SW Louisiana come Feb/Mar 2007 time frame as this current crop of rice that is still in the ground currently, starts to run out, and a source to get the mills to the next harvest time is available.....not until late July-August time frame (2007). Not looking good. Rice is about the cheapest food out there, and it's in trouble.

World grain consumption has risen in each of the last 45 years except for three-1974, 1988, and 1995-when tight supplies and sharp price hikes lowered consumption.

Growth in world grain demand, traditionally driven by population growth and rising incomes, is also now being driven by the fast growing demand for grain-based fuel ethanol for cars.

Roughly 60 percent of the world grain harvest is consumed as food, 36 percent as feed, and 3 percent as fuel. While the use of grain for food and feed grows by roughly 1 percent per year, that used for fuel is growing by over 20 percent per year.

Although the rate of world population growth is projected to slow further, the number of people to be added is expected to remain above 70 million a year until 2020.

Each year the world's farmers must try to feed an additional 70 million people, good weather or bad. This growth is concentrated in the Indian subcontinent and sub-Saharan Africa, which is where most of the world's hungry people live.

When incomes begin to rise, low-income consumers diversify their diets, shifting from a diet dominated by starchy foods, such as rice, corn, wheat, and cassava, to a more diverse diet, one that incorporates grain-intensive products such as meat, milk, and eggs. In high-income countries like the United States and Canada, grain consumed indirectly in the form of livestock products far exceeds that consumed directly as food.

Rising incomes worldwide are enabling some 3 or 4 billion low-income consumers to move up the food chain, consuming more poultry, pork, beef, milk, eggs, and farmed fish. World meat production, which climbed from 44 million tons in 1950 to 265 million tons in 2005, moves higher each year. During this 55-year span, production per person more than doubled, going from 17 kilograms to 41 kilograms.

The newest, potentially huge claimant on world grain supplies, the use of grain to produce fuel ethanol, is concentrated in the United States where a projected 55 million tons, or one fifth of the projected 268-million-ton corn harvest for 2006, will be used for this purpose. This year the climbing use of corn to produce automotive fuel will catch up with the US export of corn, which is also estimated at 55 million tons. For perspective, although 55 million tons is only 16 percent of the US grain harvest, it exceeds the total grain harvest of Canada.

Farmers are facing a record growth in the demand for grain at a time when the backlog of technology to raise grain yields is shrinking, when underground water reserves are being depleted, and when rising temperatures threaten to shrink future harvests.

Water tables are now falling and wells are going dry in countries that contain half the world's people, including the big three grain producers-China, India, and the United States. In China, water shortages have helped lower the wheat harvest from its peak of 123 million tons in 1997 to below 100 million tons in recent years. Water shortages are also making it more difficult for farmers in India to expand their grain harvest. In parts of the United States, such as the Texas panhandle and in western Oklahoma and Kansas, depletion of the Ogallala aquifer has forced farmers to return to lower-yield dry land

farming.

The world's farmers are also losing water to cities. In the United States, for example, hardly a day goes by without another sale of irrigation water to small towns or large cities such as Los Angeles, San Diego, Las Vegas, and Denver. Some of these water sales are by individual farmers selling water rights to a local town. Others represent sales of water rights by entire irrigation districts, as in parts of California.

The widespread over pumping of aquifers for irrigation means we are feeding ourselves with water that belongs to the next generation. While it is widely recognized that the world is facing a future of water shortages, not everyone has connected the dots to see that this likely also means a future of food shortages.

Perhaps the most dangerous threat to future food security is the rise in temperature. Among crop ecologists there is now a consensus that for each temperature rise of 1°C above the historical average during the growing season, we can expect a 10 percent decline in grain yields. When describing weather-reduced harvests, crop analysts often refer to the crop prospect when weather returns to normal. They fail to realize that with the earth's climate now in flux, there is no longer a norm to return to.

More and more in recent years, crop-withering heat waves have led to major crop losses. For a recent example, the early estimate of India's wheat harvest this year of 73 million tons dropped to 68 million tons as high temperatures during the crop's critical growth stage in January and February shrank the harvest.

The troubling constraints on grain production growth, such as spreading water shortages and rising temperatures, are making it difficult for farmers to keep up with the record growth in demand. As a result the world grain market may become a seller's market, one where higher grain prices, like high oil prices, are an integral part of the economic landscape.

o

I think we're up to date now. Some of that information came from Shane Connors website and some was supplied by XORUSS. It has been suggested that I add what he and I wrote as tips to one of these stories.

Department of Homeland Security/Payson Fire and Rescue 30 Tips for Emergency Preparedness

Preparedness Tip #1

Take a moment to imagine that there is an emergency, like a fire in your home, and you need to leave quickly. What are the best escape routes from your home? Find at least two ways out of each room. Now, write it down you've got the beginning of a plan.

Preparedness Tip #2

Pick a place to meet after a disaster. Designate two meeting places. Choose one right outside your home, in case of a sudden household emergency, such as a fire. The second place you choose needs to be outside your neighborhood, in the event that it is not safe to stay near or return to your home.

Preparedness Tip #3

Choose an emergency contact person outside your area because it may be easier to call long distance than locally after a local/regional disaster. Take a minute now to call or e-mail an out-of-town friend or family member to ask him or her to be your family's designated contact in the event of an emergency. Be sure to share the contact's phone number with everyone in the family. During an emergency, you can call your contact who can share with other family members where you are; how you are doing; and how to get in contact with you.

Preparedness Tip #4

Complete an emergency contact card and make copies for each member of your family to carry with them. Be sure to include an out-of-town contact on your contact card. It may be easier to reach someone out of town if local phone lines are out of service or overloaded. You should also have at least one traditionally wired landline phone, as cordless or cellular phones may not work in an emergency.

Preparedness Tip #5

Dogs may be man's best friend, but due to health regulations, most emergency shelters cannot house animals. Find out in advance how to care for your pets and working animals when disaster strikes. Pets should not be left behind, but could be taken to a veterinary office, family member's home or animal shelter during an emergency. Also be sure to store extra food and water for pets.

Preparedness Tip #6

Go through your calendar now, and put a reminder on it every six months to review your plan, update numbers, and check supplies to be sure nothing has expired, spoiled, or changed. Also remember to practice your tornado, fire escape or other disaster plans.

Preparedness Tip #7

Check your child's school Web site or call the school office to request a copy of the school's emergency plan. Keep a copy at home and work or other places where you spend a lot of your time and make sure the school's plan is incorporated into your family's emergency plan. Also, learn about the disaster plans at your workplace or other places where you and your family spend time.

Preparedness Tip #8

Teach your children how and when to call 9-1-1 or your local Emergency Medical Services number for help. Post these and other emergency telephone numbers by telephones.

Preparedness Tip #9

Practice. Conduct fire drills and practice evacuating your home twice a year. Drive your planned evacuation route and plot alternate routes on a map in case main roads are blocked or gridlocked. Practice earthquake and tornado drills at home, school and work. Commit a weekend to update telephone numbers, emergency supplies and review your plan with everyone.

Preparedness Tip #10

A community working together during an emergency makes sense. Talk to your neighbors about how you can work together during an emergency. Take CERT training available from Payson Fire Dept. to learn disaster response skills. Find out if anyone has specialized equipment like a power generator, or expertise such as medical knowledge, that might help in a crisis. Decide who will check on elderly or disabled neighbors. Make back-up plans for children in case you can't get home in an emergency. Sharing plans and communicating in advance is a good strategy.

Preparedness Tip #11

What if disaster strikes while you're at work? Do you know the emergency preparedness plan for your workplace? While many companies have been more alert and pro-active in preparing for disasters of all types since the September 11, 2001 attacks, a national survey indicates that many employees still don't know what their workplace plan is for major or minor disasters. If you don't know yours, make a point to ask. Know multiple ways to exit your building, participate in workplace evacuation drills, and consider keeping some emergency supplies at the office.

Preparedness Tip #12

From the experience picked up during the storms that have ravaged parts of our country we know that you should keep enough supplies in your home to meet the needs of you and your family for at least 14 days. Build an emergency supply kit to take with you in an evacuation. The basics to stock in your portable kit include: water, food, battery-powered radio and flashlight with extra batteries, first aid supplies, change of clothing, blanket or sleeping bag, wrench or pliers, whistle, dust mask, plastic sheeting and duct tape, trash bags, map, a manual can opener for canned food and special items for infants, elderly, the sick or people with disabilities. Keep these items in an easy to carry container such as a covered trash container, a large backpack, or a duffle bag.

Preparedness Tip #13

Preparing for emergencies needn't be expensive if you're thinking ahead and buying small quantities at a time. Make a list of some foods that: Have a long shelf-life and will not spoil (non-perishable). You and your family like. Do not require cooking. Can be easily stored. Have a low salt content as salty foods will make you more thirsty. Keep the list in your purse or wallet and pick up a few items each time you're shopping and/or see a sale until you have built up a well-stocked supply that can sustain each member of your family for at least three days following an emergency.

Preparedness Tip #14

Take a minute to check your family's first aid kit, and note any depleted items then, add them to your shopping list. Don't have a first aid kit? Add that to the list or build a kit yourself. Just add the following items to your shopping list and assemble a first aid kit. Consider creating a kit for each vehicle as well:

First Aid Kits - Assemble a first aid kit for your home and one for each car.

(20) adhesive bandages, various sizes

(1) 5" x 9" sterile dressing

(1) conforming roller gauze bandage

(2) triangular bandages

(2) 3 x 3 sterile gauze pads

(2) 4 x 4 sterile gauze pads

(1) roll 3" cohesive bandage

(2) germicidal hand wipes or waterless alcohol-based hand sanitizer

(6) antiseptic wipes

(2) pair large medical grade non-latex gloves

Adhesive tape, 2" width

Anti-bacterial ointment

Cold pack

Scissors (small, personal)

Tweezers

CPR breathing barrier, such as a face shield

First Aid Manual

Non-Prescription and Prescription Drugs:

Potassium Iodate(KIO_3) for use in protecting the thyroid only in time of a nuclear event

Aspirin or non-aspirin pain reliever

Anti-diarrhea medication

Antacid (for stomach upset)

Activated charcoal (use if advised by the Poison Control Center)

Syrup of Ipecac (use to induce vomiting if advised by the Poison Control Center)

Laxative

Prescription drugs, as recommended by your physician, and copies of the prescriptions in case they need to be replaced

See update on information on Ipecac and Activated Charcoal which follows tip #30.

For more information about first aid kits, information and kits are available from Payson Fire and Rescue.

Preparedness Tip #15

Keep at least a 14 day supply of water per person. Store a minimum of one gallon of water per person per day (two quarts for drinking, two quarts for food preparation and sanitation). Store water in plastic containers such as soft drink bottles. Avoid using containers that will decompose or break, such as milk cartons or glass bottles. A normally active person needs to drink at least two quarts of water each day. Hot

environments and strenuous activity can double that amount. Children, nursing mothers, and people who are sick will also need more. Water by itself will quench your thirst but it will not replace your electrolytes lost when you exert yourself. Include electrolyte powders to make a drink to replenish your body's salts.

Preparedness Tip #16

One of the easiest ways you can prepare for emergencies is to keep some supplies readily available. Every kit is unique and can be tailored to meet the specific needs of your family, but below is a general list of supplies you may want to consider:

Tools and Supplies (Essential Items are Marked with an Asterisk *)

Mess kits, or paper cups, plates, and plastic utensils

Emergency preparedness manual and a copy of your disaster plan, including your emergency contacts list

Battery-operated radio and extra batteries*

Flashlight and extra batteries*

Cash or traveler's checks, change during a disaster or evacuation, there might not be electricity so ATMs may not be functioning. Also stores and gas stations may not accept checks*

Non-electric can opener, utility knife*

Fire extinguisher: small ABC type stored near where fires are likely to occur such as a kitchen, or near a fireplace. It should not be kept in the disaster supplies kit*

Tube tent*

Duct Tape*

Compass

Matches in a waterproof container*

Aluminum foil

Plastic storage containers

Signal flare

Paper, pencil*

Needles, thread

Medicine dropper

Shut-off wrench or pliers, to turn off household gas and water*

Whistle*

Plastic sheeting*

Map of the area (for locating shelters and evacuation routes)*

(Continued in the next tip)

Preparedness Tip #17

Also include items for sanitation in your emergency supply kit. Consider the following:

Sanitation (Essential Items are Marked with an Asterisk *)

Toilet paper, towelettes*

Soap, liquid detergent*

Feminine supplies*

Personal hygiene items*

Plastic garbage bags, ties (for personal sanitation uses)*
Plastic bucket with tight lid
Disinfectant (Lysol Yellow)
Clorox chlorine bleach
(Continued in the next tip)

Preparedness Tip #18

Include at least one complete change of clothing and footwear per person in your emergency supply kit. We suggest long pants and long sleeves for additional protection after a disaster.

Clothing and Bedding (Essential Items are Marked with an Asterisk *)

Sturdy shoes or work boots*

Rain gear*

Blankets or sleeping bags*

Hat and gloves*

Thermal underwear

Sunglasses

Preparedness Tip #19

You should also keep a smaller version of your emergency supply kit in your vehicle, in case you are commuting or traveling when disaster strikes.

Emergency Kit For Your Vehicle:

Bottled water and non-perishable high energy foods such as Datex or Mainstay Coast Guard ration bars (2400-3600 calories per bar), raisins. Remember that some foods will not store well in the heated confines of a car trunk.

Flashlight and extra batteries

Blanket

Booster cables

Fire extinguisher (5 lb., A-B-C type)

First aid kit and manual

Maps

Shovel

Tire repair kit and pump

Flares or other emergency marking devices

Preparedness Tip #20

Teach children how to dial 9-1-1 in an emergency. Review emergency action steps with all family members:

Check the scene and the victim

Call 9-1-1 or your local emergency number posted by the telephone

Care for the victim

Help your children learn more about emergencies. Download this preparedness coloring

book or visit Red Cross' "Masters of Disaster."

Preparedness Tip #21

Read the information on your city, county and/or state government Web sites as well as the Be Prepared section of redcross dot org or Ready.gov and print emergency preparedness information. Be sure to keep a copy with your disaster supplies kit. It can provide telephone numbers, addresses and other information you need when electronic connections are not available options for obtaining the information.

Preparedness Tip #22

When water is of questionable purity, it is easiest to use bottled water for drinking and cooking if it is available. When it's not available, it is important to know how to treat contaminated water. In addition to having a bad odor and taste, water from questionable sources may be contaminated by a variety of microorganisms, including, bacteria and parasites that cause diseases such as dysentery, cholera, typhoid, and hepatitis. All water of uncertain purity should be treated before use. Use one or a combination of these treatments:

Filter: Filter the water using a piece of cloth or coffee filter to remove solid particles.

Boil: Bring it to a rolling boil for about one full minute. Cool it and pour it back and forth between two clean containers to improve its taste before drinking it.

Chlorinate: Add 16 drops (1/8 teaspoon) of liquid chlorine bleach per gallon of water. Stir to mix. Sodium hypochlorite of the concentration of 5.25% to 6% should be the only active ingredient in the bleach. There should not be any added soap or fragrances. A major bleach manufacturer has also added Sodium Hydroxide as an active ingredient, which they state does not pose a health risk for water treatment. Let stand 30 minutes. If it smells of chlorine. You can use it. If it does not smell of chlorine, add 16 more drops (1/8 teaspoon) of chlorine bleach per gallon of water, let stand 30 minutes, and smell it again. If it smells of chlorine, you can use it. If it does not smell of chlorine, discard it and find another source of water.

Flood water can also be contaminated by toxic chemicals. Do NOT try to treat flood water.

Preparedness Tip #23

In some emergencies you may be required to turn off your utilities. To prepare for this type of event:

Locate the electric, gas and water shut-off valves.

Keep necessary tools near gas and water shut-off valves

Teach adult family members how to turn off utilities.

If you turn off the gas, a professional must turn it back on. Do not attempt to do this yourself.

Preparedness Tip #24

Understand that during an emergency you may be asked to shelter-in-place or evacuate. Plan for both possibilities and be prepared to listen to instructions from your local emergency management officials. Visit sheltering-in-place.

Preparedness Tip #25

A disaster can cause significant financial loss. Your apartment or home may be severely damaged or destroyed. You may be forced to live in temporary housing. Income may be cut off or significantly reduced. Important financial records could be destroyed. Take the time now to assess your situation and ask questions. To help you, consider using the Emergency Financial First Aid Kit (EFFAK), a tool developed by Operation Hope, FEMA and Citizen Corps or contact your local Red Cross chapter for Disasters and Financial Planning: A Guide for Preparedness.

Preparedness Tip #26

Learn if earthquakes are a risk in your area by contacting your local emergency management office, or state geological survey or department of natural resources. Information about earthquake risk is also available from the US Geological Survey National Seismic Hazards project.

Preparedness Tip #27

Floods are among the most frequent and costly natural disasters in terms of human hardship and economic loss. As much as 90 percent of the damage related to all natural disasters (excluding draught) is caused by floods and associated debris flow. Most communities in the United States can experience some kind of flooding. Melting snow can combine with rain in the winter and early spring; severe thunderstorms can bring heavy rain in the spring or summer; or hurricanes can bring intense rainfall to coastal and inland states in the summer and fall. Regardless of how a flood occurs, the rule for being safe is simple: head for higher ground and stay away from floodwater. Even a shallow depth of fast-moving floodwater produces more force than most people imagine. You can protect yourself by being prepared and having time to act. Local radio or television stations or a NOAA Weather Radio are the best sources of information in a flood situation.

Preparedness Tip #28

When there is concern about a potential exposure to a chemical or other airborne hazard, local officials may advise you to "shelter-in-place and seal the room. This is different from taking shelter on the lowest level of your home in case of a natural disaster like a tornado. If you believe the air may be badly contaminated or if you are instructed by local officials, follow the instructions below to create a temporary barrier between you and the contaminated air outside.

To shelter-in-place and seal-the-room:

Close and lock all windows and exterior doors.

Turn off all fans, heating and air conditioning systems.

Close the fireplace damper.

Get your disaster supplies kit and turn on your battery-powered radio.

Go to an interior room that is above ground level and without windows, if possible. In the case of a chemical threat, an above-ground location is preferable because some chemicals are heavier than air, and may seep into basements even if the windows are closed. If directed by local authorities on the radio, use duct tape to seal all cracks around the door and any vents into the room. Tape plastic sheeting, such as heavy-duty plastic garbage bags, over any windows.

Listen to your radio or television for further instructions. Local officials will tell you when you can leave the room in which you are sheltering, or they may call for evacuation in specific areas at greatest risk in your community

Preparedness Tip #29

If There is an Explosion:

Take shelter against your desk or a sturdy table.

Exit the building immediately.

Do not use elevators.

Check for fire and other hazards.

Take your emergency supply kit if time allows.

If There is a Fire:

Exit the building immediately.

If there is smoke, crawl under the smoke to the nearest exit and use a cloth, if possible, to cover your nose and mouth.

Use the back of your hand to feel the upper, lower, and middle parts of closed doors.

If the door is not hot, brace yourself against it and open slowly.

If the door is hot, do not open it. Look for another way out.

Do not use elevators.

If your clothes catch on fire, stop-drop-and-roll to put out the fire.

Do not run.

If you are at home, go to your previously designated outside meeting place.

Account for your family members and carefully supervise small children.

GET OUT and STAY OUT. Never go back into a burning building.

Call 9-1-1 or your local emergency number.

Preparedness Tip #30

Unlike an explosion, a biological attack may or may not be immediately obvious. Most likely local health care workers will report a pattern of unusual illness or a wave of sick people seeking medical attention. The best source of information will be radio or television reports. Understand that some biological agents, such as anthrax, do not cause contagious diseases. Others, like the smallpox virus, can result in diseases you can catch from other people.

In the event of a biological attack, public health officials may not immediately be able to provide information on what you should do. It will take time to determine exactly what the illness is, how it should be treated, and who may have been exposed. You should watch TV, listen to the radio, or check the Internet for official news including the following:

Are you in the group or area authorities believe may have been exposed?

What are the signs and symptoms of the disease?

Are medications or vaccines being distributed?

Where? Who should get them and how?

Where should you seek emergency medical care if you become sick?

During a declared biological emergency:

If a family member becomes sick, it is important to be suspicious.

Do not assume, however, that you should go to a hospital emergency room or that any illness is the result of the biological attack. Symptoms of many common illnesses may overlap.

Use common sense, practice good hygiene and cleanliness to avoid spreading germs, and seek medical advice.

Consider if you are in the group or area authorities believe to be in danger.

If your symptoms match those described and you are in the group considered at risk, immediately seek emergency medical attention.

If you are potentially exposed:

Follow instructions of doctors and other public health officials.

If the disease is contagious expect to receive medical evaluation and treatment. You may be advised to stay away from others or even deliberately quarantined. For non-contagious diseases, expect to receive medical evaluation and treatment.

If you become aware of an unusual and suspicious substance nearby:

Quickly get away.

Protect yourself. Cover your mouth and nose with layers of fabric that can filter the air but still allow breathing. Examples include two to three layers of cotton such as a t-shirt, handkerchief or towel. Otherwise, several layers of tissue or paper towels may help.

Wash with soap and water.

Contact authorities.

Watch TV, listen to the radio, or check the Internet for official news and information including what the signs and symptoms of the disease are, if medications or vaccinations are being distributed and where you should seek medical attention if you become sick.

If you become sick seek emergency medical attention.

Resources:

Ready.gov
US Department of Homeland Security

Amended by Russ Williams
Payson Fire and Rescue/CERT

Update information on Syrup of Ipecac and Activated Charcoal from WebMD:

Nov. 3, 2003 – In a new policy, the nation's pediatricians recommend *against* using syrup of ipecac when children swallow a poisonous substance.

In a statement published in this month's issue of *Pediatrics*, the American Academy of Pediatricians (AAP) recommends that syrup of ipecac no longer be used as a home treatment strategy.

"The first action for a caregiver of a child who may have ingested a toxic substance is to consult with the local poison control center," writes author Marilyn J. Bull, MD, chairwoman of the AAP's Committee on Injury, Violence, and Poison Prevention.

Evidence Against Syrup of Ipecac

For the past two decades, syrup of ipecac has been a staple in the family medicine cabinet. In fact, the AAP recommended in 1985 that pediatricians give syrup of ipecac to parents when their baby turned 6 months old. At that time, ipecac's ability to produce vomiting was considered key to its use as a poison treatment.

However, the evidence against ipecac's effectiveness began to mount. "The weight of evidence firmly pointed to a lack of clinical benefit," writes Michael Shannon, MD, MPH, a toxicologist with Children's Hospital of Boston and Harvard Medical School, in an accompanying commentary.

A recent study, also appearing in *Pediatrics*, examined nearly 670,000 poisoning cases across the country to see if use of syrup of ipecac either improved outcome or decreased trips to the emergency room.

Syrup of ipecac was used in 2% of cases, but the researchers found no evidence that it improved outcome or decreased visits to the to the emergency room, reports researcher G.R. Bond, MD, an emergency medicine specialist at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center.

Home use of syrup of ipecac will not improve a child's outcome; in fact, it won't likely keep them out the ER – they will still need hospital treatment, writes Bond. More time and energy should go toward poison prevention education, he adds.

After reviewing the evidence, the AAP believes that ipecac should no longer be used routinely as a home treatment strategy and that existing ipecac in the home should be disposed of safely, Bull writes.

If a child has been exposed to a toxic substance, the caregiver should call the national poison center number at (800) 222-1222. Calls are routed to the local poison control center.

What About Activated Charcoal?

Recently, there has been increased interest in using activated charcoal in the home to treat poisonings. Unlike syrup of ipecac, which causes your child to vomit up the poison, charcoal binds to the chemicals in the stomach or intestines and keeps them out of the bloodstream. The charcoal and toxins are then passed out of the body.

Activated charcoal is not advised for home use, Bull writes, because young children have trouble taking it by mouth. In emergency rooms, activated charcoal is given through a nose tube, which works best.

So What Should You Do?

- To help prevent an accidental poisoning in your child, the AAP says:
- Keep potential poisons out of sight and out of reach.
- Always check containers and cabinets to make sure they are securely shut and locked after poisonous substances are used.
- Never transfer a substance from its original to an alternate container.
- Safely dispose of all unused and unneeded medications.
- Do not refer to medicines as candy.

To treat poisonings in young children, the AAP recommends:

- If poisons have been ingested, call the national poison center at (800) 222-1222.
- If poisons have touched the skin or eyes, run tap water over the skin or eye for 15 to 20 minutes.
- If poisons have been inhaled, remove the child from the hazardous environment.
- In all poisonings, if the victim is conscious and alert, call the local poison control center. If the victim has collapsed or stopped breathing, call 911 for emergency transport to the hospital.
- Caregivers should rely on the poison control center for advice regarding poisoning, Bull states.

After a while, a person has to ask him/herself if there's a point to TOM's stories. Is the point to give him something to do while he's sitting around with nothing to do, or is there something in them worth the time it takes to read them? The Squirrel who wrote the comment that every time he read a story, he recheck his preps answers the question.

The answer is all of the above. Have you ever sat down and figured out how many cans of coffee you go through in a month or 90 days? If you're a coffee drinker, the answer might surprise you. My mother had a pantry of sorts, a set of shelves under the basement stairs. When she shopped, she watched for things we used that were on sale and bought extras. In the 1950s, you didn't run to the store 3 times in one day, at least you didn't at our house, she didn't drive.

◦

When Katrina hit the Gulf Coast in 2005, I warned you about the price of Folgers coffee. We drink a lot of coffee, probably one of the 57 ounce cans a week. When we're down to 6 cans of coffee, we're out. We buy the canned veggies like diced tomatoes, green beans and corn a case at a time if when we're down to a half case, we're out. Katrina damaged a Folgers processing plant, the result was a shortage and higher prices. But, you can never learn anything by reading 3 wire services and 8 newspapers a day, can you? I missed the bit about the Folgers plant, but Sharon saw it and we bought 18 cans at the old price. We were able to wait to buy more until the price came back down.

Beans and rice may seem like a joke, but it isn't. Both keep nearly forever and half of the world lives on rice. Another thing that keeps forever is elbow macaroni. Our version of goulash is ground beef, onions, diced tomatoes and macaroni. It's boring, but it is a meal in one dish. If you don't know how long to cook the beans, soak them overnight; then, it only takes a couple of hours. If you have a freezer and backup power, a small generator will do, watch for sales of ground beef or shop a store like Costco or Sam's Club and buy the big packages. Ground beef stored in a plastic bags wrapped in Kraft paper (plastic lined butcher's paper) will keep very well in your freezer. The fancy survival foods might be nice if I had the money lying around, but I don't.

◦

FEMA says to have 3 days of food and water, but how long did it take them to rescue the people in New Orleans? Remember, they knew the storm was coming. When I replaced my hot water heater when it wore out, I went to a 50-gallon heater, more emergency water. Even if you wouldn't drink the water from your bathtub, you could use it to flush the toilet.

Harbor Freight and Tractor Supply sell generators, many for under \$500. But, get them BEFORE you need them, not when you need them. A smaller generator will probably run on gasoline. Now, if you had a 55-gallon drum of gas, purchased 5 gallons at a time and preserved it with PRI-G, you have plenty of gas for the generator and could even fill your vehicle tank in an emergency. An emergency might just be when you're flat broke and must go somewhere when your tank is empty. Don't forget to replace the gas you use. Another source for generators is Colorado Standby. Search the web using their names for their websites.

A natural gas fueled standby generator might be the cat's whisker, until you have an earthquake and suddenly lose your gas supply. They're not efficient as the propane fuel generators, either. It's an emergency generator, so you don't really have to factor in the energy to run your air conditioner, unless you want to. Most homes have 100amp services of 240 volts so if you're putting in a standby generator, 100 amps at 240 volts will run everything all of the time, until you run out of fuel. That's a 30kw generator.

Good for you if you live out in the sticks, you probably don't have natural gas service and will have to put in propane anyway. It couldn't take them weeks to restore electric service, could it? Hah! An Onan RS 30000 is a 1,800 rpm generator that runs on natural gas or propane and puts out more than 100 amps. It uses 1.2 to 2.4gph of propane to produce 125 amps.

◦

You will find differing opinions, but opinions are like hind ends, everyone has one. Most of the sites agree that you may need a backup generator. As far as I'm concerned, I have smokes, lighters and coffee, so I'm set, I can make coffee on my Coleman stove and have 5 kerosene lamps and a half dozen 2 gallon jugs of kerosene plus as many one gallon cans of Coleman fuel.

◦

I have been a life member of the NRA since 1964 and I think that everyone interested in survival needs to have a few guns. You all know I favor a 7.62x51mm (.308) rifle and the .45ACP pistol. The reason is simple, what you hit with them goes down. Plus you can buy all kinds of surplus ammo. If I could only have a few guns, I would have the following in order of priority:

.22LR rifle

12-gauge pump shotgun

7.62x51mm semi-auto rifle (In California, buy CA legal M1A)

.45ACP pistol

.50BMG rifle (Not legal in California)

When it came to ammo, I'd have 20 bricks of .22LR, 4 cases of assorted 12-gauge, 5,000 rounds of 7.62x51mm, 2 cases of .45ACP and all the .50BMG I could buy up to 500 rounds. One man's opinion.

◦

My youngest is in Iraq. He spells the name of the country differently now, Hell. He didn't believe my adage, never volunteer. He's gotten to see the world while in the Guard: Kosovo and Iraq. He did Korea on active duty. I told him not to volunteer for the next war: Iran. It could be Korea, read the papers lately? I'm crazy so I'd probably use a DDG and a RIM-156 to shoot their test missile down. Standard Missile-3 (SM-3), RIM162, hasn't

been fully deployed yet, but I think some DDGs have it. But then, I'm not a Dove. They can protest to the UN all they want.

o

Fact:

Israel's top military and security chiefs are up in arms against Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and defense minister Amir Peretz after discovering the far-from-token scope of the arms delivery the ministers allowed to reach Abu Mazen's private army. Before the prime minister left for Europe and during his trip, he stated that 200 automatic rifles had been transferred to Mahmoud Abbas for the use of his private army. He assured Israeli security chiefs that "not a single extra gun" would be permitted. Now they have discovered that, under the table, 1,000 guns and 3 million bullets were delivered to Abbas' "presidential guard", Force 17 (a veteran terrorist arm of Fatah with a long history of hundreds of attacks against Israelis.) Sources also disclose:

1. The weapons and ammo, both state of the art, come from American military sources. They reached Jordan 10 days ago.
2. The Jordanian army removed the US military emblems stamped on the guns.
3. At midnight, June 12, a convoy of 4 Jordanian military trucks with their markings removed reached the Allenby Bridge crossing into Israel and the West Bank, which was opened especially to let them through.
4. An IDF Special Forces escort and helicopters secured the convoy's passage via Jericho to the West Bank Christian village of Taibe northeast of Ramallah. There, Force 17 took delivery of the consignment.

Saturday night, June 17, Hamas too discovered the real scale of the arms delivery to Fatah and furiously demand that the "the American-Israeli plot" against it be investigated. There was no comment from Israel.

To avoid the stigma of being seen as an US-Israeli puppet, Abu Mazen Saturday, June 17, denied taking delivery of the American weapons through Israeli good will. They are now stowed away in the Force 17 arsenal. But Abbas cannot allow them to be distributed to its members without losing face.

Something is wrong when we're arming our enemies.

Of all the things that are important, perhaps the most important thing is attitude. If you have the attitude that you can't stand up to whatever happens, you're defeated before you start. On the other hand, if you have the attitude that you can improvise, adapt and overcome, you might get defeated, but not in the beginning.

Example: You live within 3,500 meters of a high probability target and we have WWII. The CEP on some of the other guys' weapons is 3,500 meters. So, if he misses and drops a weapon on you in your shelter, you're dead. If, on the other hand, he hits the target and you have an underground shelter, you could survive. Then what? If you have a Survey Meter you will know when it's safe to leave the shelter, otherwise you'll just be guessing. Shane Conner needs the money, buy a package from him. But don't try to buy MREs; the government bought him out for Katrina.

If you don't have a shelter, there are a couple of people in Utah who would like to talk to you. It might just be a culvert but it could save your life. Tell them Tom and XORuss sent you. Sharon Packer and Russ are friends. And as far as I know, we don't get commissions from anyone.

o

We finished the food and supply inventory and concluded that it didn't matter what happened, if we survived the initial whatever, we were probably good for the long-term. We had all of the essentials mentioned by Russ and Tom and lots more besides. Do you know what causes wars? Nations go to war because:

- They have nowhere else to go for resolving differences or grievances.
- They want what some other nation has. Quite often it is tied to land, or a kind of wealth.
- Religion can also be the cause of wars. This is because neither side can agree on what is morally right or wrong; because of their religious readings, customs, beliefs and ways of life prohibit such behavior. After some time tension can build up and start a bloody and gruesome war.
- Superiority and Inferiority, has been the cause of wars. Some races believe they are superior to another race and then wars can start. Note that these wars don't often become major international conflicts.
- A long standing hatred between nations that has built up over a number of years.
- Rivalry between nations.
- The three major needs of humans is probably the main reason for nations to go to war. These needs are food, water and shelter. If a nation or group is deprived of these essentials they resort to war to try and attempt to fix the problem.

Can you describe the world in 2006? Look out a window, or turn on TV. People are starving all over the world and it's only getting worse. The oceans are rising as the glaciers melt. The warming oceans cause storms like hurricanes and typhoons to be larger and more powerful. We have a war between the major religious groups, the Judeo/Christians and the Muslims. Several countries have designs on territory held by others. Several earthquake faults are locked and overdue. The next time the volcanoes on La Palma erupts, the US could be hit by a really BIG tsunami. Yellowstone is due or overdue. We have gangs controlling a significant portion of our society. 40 years after the AMA said alcoholism is a disease, there is still a problem getting people treated.

Take your pick, If I missed anything, add it to the list. Or dream something up, like a drunk, starving illegal alien in New Orleans with a M16 and pocket full of hand grenades.

o

"Have you noticed the price of food. Lately?"

"No, is it getting higher?"

"I bought the usual assortment food and I believe it must have cost me ten or fifteen percent more."

"Just since the last time?"

"Yes and that was at the Costco store in Prescott. I'm glad I never resumed smoking, your cigarettes are nearly unaffordable and even rice has gone up."

"We have plenty of food, can we wait it out?"

"We could if I thought the price was going down anytime soon. However, I always just pulled out a pail of food from storage and immediately replaced it; I don't believe we should change that."

"So that's why you have all of those pails in the fruit cellar."

"It isn't a secret, yes of course. Buy what you eat and eat what you buy. I did get the last pail of the '76 rice, I wonder how much difference in price there was between it and the rice I bought to replace it in terms of constant dollars?"

"I suppose it was a bit more, apparently there are grain shortages. Gasoline nearly double in price the past couple of years, which is why should food be higher, it has to be transported? Where is Liz?"

"She drove up to Flagstaff to check on a job that was advertised in the paper. You would think that a person who graduated from the CGA and made full Lieutenant wouldn't have any problem finding a job."

"She can work in the store until she does, it isn't a problem. Did you realize that a person can almost tell the state of the nation by gun and ammo sales?"

"What do you mean?"

"People get worried about this or that scare and they come in and load up on ammo. And some that are new to the survival mentality start building an armory. I can't tell you when business has been better, something has the population spooked."

"The price of food or gas?"

"Actually, I think it could be a bit of both. As far as gasoline goes, ethanol isn't a cure all. Most of our ethanol comes from grain but it can be produced from cellulose. ADM says there isn't enough corn in the US to produce all the ethanol we need. Cellulose can come from the plant stalks or many other sources."

US ethanol prices extended a surge to all-time highs this week as fuel companies increased use of the grain-based additive in gasoline.

Oil refiners and fuel blenders this year shifted to making reformulated gasoline with ethanol after dropping an additive known as MTBE. Ethanol prices are highest in reformulated markets in the northeast and south, partly because of long distances to ship the fuel, most of which is made in the Midwest.

"You've got a significant amount of demand [for ethanol] that has moved into the market over the last couple of months," said Chad Martin, a broker with FCStone Group Inc. in Des Moines. "The market looks to be tight for the next several months with this phaseout" of MTBE.

SAN FRANCISCO (Business 2.0 Magazine) – Everywhere you look these days, tech and business world luminaries - like Richard Branson, Paul Allen, Steve Case, Vinod Khosla, John Doerr, and Bill Gates – are laying down big bets on ethanol, a substitute for gasoline that's already finding its way into pumps.

The price of the stuff has shot up 65 percent since May from \$2.65 a gallon to \$4.50, largely thanks to the oil companies who have started to put small quantities of it in our gas as a clean-air additive (most cars can handle a blend of up to 10 percent ethanol in their tanks).

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa Cheap cattle feed pouring out of the state's ethanol plants could give the state's cattle industry a competitive edge.

Experts says the high-protein feed, called distillers grain, could be used to expand cattle production and return Iowa to a top beef-producing state. About 18 pounds of the grain is left over from every bushel of corn used to make ethanol.

Feed costs incorporating distillers grains can range from 38-cents to 72-cents a-day for cattle, compared with the herd average cost of around a-dollar.

DOVER, Del. – Chemical maker DuPont said Tuesday that it will begin marketing biofuels for the transportation sector next year through a partnership with oil company BP.

The companies said a collaboration they began in 2003 has advanced to the point where they plan to introduce butanol made from sugar beets as a gasoline blending component in the United Kingdom.

DuPont and BP are working with British Sugar, a subsidiary of Associated British Foods, to convert the UK's first ethanol fermentation plant to produce biobutanol. They also are looking at the feasibility of building larger plants in the United Kingdom.

"We believe the time is right for this science and we can help grow the market for biofuel," said DuPont chairman and chief executive officer Charles Holliday.

"Today's announcement is good news for farmers, good news for consumers, good news for the environment and good news for shareholders," Holliday said.

Like ethanol, butanol is an alcohol compound, but with four carbon atoms instead of two. DuPont says the different chemical structure of butanol gives it several advantages over ethanol, including tolerance to water contamination, which makes it more suitable for transportation via pipeline.

There might be a food shortage, but it could be unrelated to using corn to produce ethanol, as those stories point out. Anything that contains cellulose or sugar can be used to produce ethanol or a similar product. The real problem might be the shortage of water to produce the crops to produce the...

It would cost automaker's very little to make all new cars E85 capable. In the light of the energy shortages, it might just be a very good marketing ploy. It mainly consists of changes to the fuel systems, not to the car itself. The price of cars goes up every year anyway, and if all of their cars were E85 capable, they would realize economies of scale. I like the idea; it would give the ATF someone else to pick on besides we gun dealers.

If Sue and I had shopped weekly instead of monthly, the rise in prices might not have surprised her as much. However, how often do you need a case of coffee (12 cans) or a 50# bag of rice or 25# bag of beans? Only when you open a new case or pail of something. We bought pasta products by the case of the large bags. Things like toilet paper were used up fast and we always got a bundle or two of that every time we went to the store. I'm certain that when Sue and Sarah showed up at Costco in Prescott, someone one said, 'Oh, those two again.' They must have thought we ran a boarding school for runaway kids.

When We Were Young – Chapter 4

The government had been busy trying to fight terrorists:

10 Plots:

1. The West Coast Airliner Plot: In mid-2002 the US disrupted a plot to attack targets on the West Coast of the United States using hijacked airplanes. The plotters included at least one major operational planner involved in planning the events of 9/11.

2. The East Coast Airliner Plot: In mid-2003 the US and a partner disrupted a plot to attack targets on the East Coast of the United States using hijacked commercial airplanes.

3. The Jose Padilla Plot: In May 2002 the US disrupted a plot that involved blowing up apartment buildings in the United States. One of the plotters, Jose Padilla, also discussed the possibility of using a "dirty bomb" in the US.

4. The 2004 UK Urban Targets Plot: In mid-2004 the US and partners disrupted a plot that involved urban targets in the United Kingdom. These plots involved using explosives against a variety of sites.

5. The 2003 Karachi Plot: In the Spring of 2003 the US and a partner disrupted a plot to attack Westerners at several targets in Karachi, Pakistan.

6. The Heathrow Airport Plot: In 2003 the US and several partners disrupted a plot to attack Heathrow Airport using hijacked commercial airliners. The planning for this attack was undertaken by a major 9/11 operational figure.

7. The 2004 UK Plot: In the Spring of 2004 the US and partners, using a combination of law enforcement and intelligence resources, disrupted a plot to conduct large-scale bombings in the UK.

8. The 2002 Arabian Gulf Shipping Plot: In late 2002 and 2003 the US and a partner nation disrupted a plot by al Qaeda operatives to attack ships in the Arabian Gulf.

9. The 2002 Straits of Hormuz Plot: In 2002 the US and partners disrupted a plot to attack ships transiting the Straits of Hormuz.

10. The 2003 Tourist Site Plot: In 2003 the US and a partner nation disrupted a plot to attack a tourist site outside the United States.

5 Casings and Infiltrations:

1. The US Government & Tourist Sites Tasking: In 2003 and 2004, an individual was tasked by al Qaeda to case important US Government and tourist targets within the United States.

2. The Gas Station Tasking: In approximately 2003, an individual was tasked to collect targeting information on US gas stations and their support mechanisms on behalf of a senior al Qaeda planner.

3. Lyman Faris & the Brooklyn Bridge: In 2003, and in conjunction with a partner nation, the US government arrested and prosecuted Lyman Faris, who was exploring the destruction of the Brooklyn Bridge in New York. Faris ultimately pleaded guilty to providing material support to al Qaeda and is now in a federal correctional institution.

2001 Tasking: In 2001, al Qaeda sent an individual to facilitate post-September 11 attacks in the US. US law enforcement authorities arrested the individual.

2003 Tasking: In 2003, an individual was tasked by an al Qaeda leader to conduct reconnaissance on populated areas in the US.

And then we found out that, President Nixon, in his first year in office and eager to end an unpopular war that killed tens of thousands of US troops, considered using nuclear weapons against the North Vietnamese recently declassified documents show.

o

I started to recount our life story from 1957 when I was only 18. I have good news and bad news. It isn't 1957 and I'm not 18 anymore. It's 2006 and the four of us are semi-retired. At least, we're all 67 and try to tell ourselves we're retired. We don't have to work to earn money for anything, but we have to have something to do and working is probably more fun than anything else we could imagine.

Sue and I put our travel plans on hold when al Qaeda knocked down the WTC. After that, the issue of illegal aliens began to surface and we didn't have to go to Mexico to see Mexicans. MS-13 wasn't just an LA gang anymore, they went national. Could be a franchise operation for all I know. We only drew enough in salaries from the business so that we wouldn't have to give up our Social Security. That left a lot of money in the company and naturally, the company invested it. We took to investing money in whatever Warren Buffet invested money in; he was worth \$44 billion. But more than that, we were personally liquid, and had a lot of our personal money tied up in gold and silver coins. We were pretty rich for a while in early 2006 when the price of gold went up. We didn't sell, though, this was a long-term investment.

As we continued into 2006, the price of gas fluctuated, sometimes up and sometimes down, but never very far down. We started to replace the diesel fuel we were using up with B100 and if we lived long enough, it would eventually be mostly biodiesel. We sold off Sue's Fairlane to a collector and bought her a Flex-fuel Jeep Grand Cherokee. We

ran the gas tank down to empty and refilled it with the E-85 gas. If you recall, I said I was thinking about a diesel pickup.

In the late 1980s, Dodge garnered another industry first by shoving a massive Cummins turbo diesel – designed for tractors and big rigs – into their full size pickups, greatly increasing the truck's capacity to compensate for the massive, torque-filled engine. Far more advanced than the Navistar diesels used by Ford or the GM diesels, which had been used for years before the mighty Cummins was planted in Dodges, it required a greater truck infrastructure, and it could be argued that it was unable to be fully used until the extra-heavy-duty 1994 Ram appeared in 1993.

Like all modern diesels, the Cummins was turbocharged for higher performance (coincidentally helping it in high altitudes), using direct injection for greater efficiency and lower emissions; at the time, neither Ford nor GM had diesels with those features. It also had far higher torque, and only six cylinders, for lower build costs and easier servicing. The end result was a truck with 16,000 pounds of very conservatively estimated gross cargo capacity. That number would only rise as time went on; and Dodge would continue to have the most powerful diesel engines in the industry through (at least) 2002, thanks to Cummins. These massive engines helped Dodge by creating a niche market for its pickups, by then over two decades old and not especially popular – Chrysler had a seven percent market share, and half of those were diesels!

I waited and bought a '97 Club cab 4x4 with Cummins turbo diesel engine and most of the options. I stuck with a manual transmission, I was used to it. I still had the Ford F-100, it was now almost a collector's item. Everything on it that had to be rebuilt had been rebuilt more than once. I know I said I was going to drive it to the junkyard in 25 years, but to tell you the truth, I didn't have the heart.

Remember Dave, the fella who bought the gun shop in Sedona? He went belly up, too many cowboy guns and too few patrons. Matt and I bought him out, lock, stock, barrel and leather. I didn't think he could make it selling Colts and Winchesters, the Colts were too expensive for the average man and the Winchester company finally sort of shut down in 2006. Dave was into buying some of those collector's items too and nobody could afford those. Nice town Sedona, I heard they have doc in town who is a flight er-doc.

Anybody who can fly a Herc is ok in my book. I'm sure the one I flew on was an A or B model (1963). Once was enough, they forgot to close the tailgate. And, I was the only guy on the plane without a parachute. Sometimes I think that's why I drank. (It's a good excuse, I'm going to hang onto it. It seems that writer slipped into the story for a couple of sentences, sorry.)

Where was I? Sedona, Arizona with hundreds of guns, thousands of rounds of ammo, most everything a class III dealer could own plus a 2007 Jeep Cherokee and a Dodge pickup. And my Liz was back home... Oh yeah, the food shortage! Didn't bother me, Sue and Sarah did the shopping. Until I happened to see the checkbook.

"How did you manage to spend \$1,500 at Costco? Did we need a new washer and dryer or something?"

"Do you remember when you were a little kid and \$20 worth of groceries took several sacks?"

"Yes."

"Do you remember that how later you could get \$20 worth of groceries in a single sack?"

"I do, so?"

"I didn't buy a washer. I didn't buy a dryer. I didn't even buy you any Pall Malls. Gas is over \$4 a gallon, shipping costs are way up and there seems to be a shortage of food. You know those 100 pound sacks of flour they sell?"

"Yes?"

"They only weigh 50 pounds now for the same price. A case of Coke is \$11. A 10 pound bag of sugar only weighs 2 pounds. Do you want me to go on?"

"You didn't tell me how you spent \$1,500."

"I just glanced at the signs and saw about the same prices so I didn't read the fine print. I assumed the signs were referring to the same size we always buy. They didn't. When she started ringing me up I objected and she said I was right about the price but that was for a smaller size. I got \$1,500 on one of those lowboy carts they have. After we put the stuff in the pickup I went back in and looked at the signs. She was right, things had doubled and sometimes tripled in price."

"That can't be right; some of those things have been in the store for months."

"New policy, they do it like the gas stations."

"Oh. You know, I never did believe that was legal. A day after Katrina hit New Orleans the price of gas in some places was \$6. You can't tell me that that wasn't price gouging."

"I'm not trying to tell you anything Rob, I just explaining how I spent \$1,500 at Costco."

"Matt, I don't get it, Sue spent \$1,500 at Costco and I think she got gouged."

"Rob they each had a flatbed and they rang them up together and divided the cost 50-50."

"Crap, I'm going down to the store and tell Liz to raise the prices on everything 10%."

"We already did that. Twice. Who is going to pay \$990 for a Mini-14?"

"Anyone who wants one bad enough. Car dealers do it all of the time when they're short on a particular model."

o

"Honey, I want you to put half of the guns in storage and raise the price the all guns 10%."

"What should I say when they complain about the price rise Dad?"

"Tell them we're short on that particular model and they're getting hard to get. If it's a M1A, tell them the waiting time for a replacement is several weeks or months."

"I won't lie."

"It isn't a lie, Liz; we don't have a waiting time because of our large inventory. It does, however, takes weeks or months to replace one when we sell it. The guy who has 8 or 9 Mini-14s on the shelf has them because his price is too high. If he only had one, he could charge whatever the traffic would bear. Marketing 101."

"But you have firearms you don't even display."

"Oh, the H&Ks? Marketing 102, I'm out, but I might be able to get one. I can't tell you what the price will be, how much are you willing to pay if I do find one?"

"What about the class III weapons?"

"There are a limited number of registered class III firearms. We can charge whatever we can get. Have you looked on the internet lately? Prices are up and supplies are down. Every time you sell a class III weapon, you're taking a chance that the feds haven't screwed up their records. Why do you think we keep our records under lock and key?"

You may also remember that I didn't have a scope on my Winchester Model 70. I had a chance to buy a Swarovski PV-S 6-24x50 Plex for cost. While it retailed for ~\$1,800, it cost me a lot less. I know it was double what I paid for the rifle, if not triple, BUT the rifle was 1 in 1,000 in terms of accuracy. Between using Black Hills Match .308 168gr BTHP and that scope, it didn't matter that I was 67 years old. I do believe I could have entered competition with that rifle. I might not have won the match, but they'd be asking 'Who is that old guy?'

We don't sell Barrett's; we sell McMillian Tac-50s and only carry Hornady 750gr A-MAX Match ammo. We have the rifle packages only and the rifles all have the McCann Night Vision Rail. We carry the parts kits and extra magazines. We get wholesale pricing from Omni Tech Partners Group for their MilSight S135 MUNS (Magnum Universal Night Sight™) AN/PVS-27, a high-resolution clip-on night vision weapon sight that mounts on any MIL-STD-1913 rail interface forward of an existing scope, adding night vision capabilities to daytime target acquisition platforms.

The MUNS™ utilizes a full MIL-SPEC Gen 3 (autogated pinnacle) image intensifier tube, an extremely fast f/1.0 catadioptric lens for a brighter and sharper image in star-light, and patented permanent boresight alignment technology. The MUNS gathers twice as much light as the AN/PVS-22 Universal Night Sight™ and can be used against targets at 1.5 times the range of the UNS. (The UNS™ is the ideal Night Sight for .308 caliber sniper rifles.)

The unit is installed, operated, and removed without tools and without affecting boresight (permanent boresight alignment). The unit can be mounted on a spotting scope for long range reconnaissance, hand-held as a Night Observation Device (NOD), or used in other night-time operations requiring night vision capabilities. Effective on all weapons from carbines to .50 caliber semi-automatic and bolt action sniper rifles, and optimized for medium- & long-range sniper weapons including:

- SR-25 Enhanced Match version / MK11
- M107
- .338 Lapua
- .308 M24
- .408 Chandler Tactical
- .300 Winchester Magnum

The MUNS™ includes FLIR's proprietary Shock Mitigation System (SMS™), allowing the unit to be used on weapons up to and including .50 caliber bolt-action rifles. It re-tailed for as much or more than the rifle.

We didn't jog as far either, but we worked at keeping muscle tone. Something was working; the only thing we had to make our bodies better was reading glasses. Oh, we still had 20-20 vision, but when you age your eyes become less flexible. It probably helped that we wore caps and hadn't burned our eyes out in the bright summer sun.

o

Most often when a person considers a disaster, things like tornadoes, hurricanes or earthquakes come to mind. In this country they happen the most. A farmer might disagree with that and add droughts and floods. Less often, things like volcanoes or tsunamis occur and every ¾ million years a large caldera may erupt. We haven't had many famines in our country. The closest we ever came to a famine was 1816, the Year Without a Summer, caused by the eruption of Mt. Tambora. We weren't listed for 1816 ei-

ther, but growing conditions in the northeastern US weren't the best. Stop and think where most people lived in this country in 1816...

It was 1945. The USA and her allies had been victorious in World War II. Japan was occupied by Allied forces. The world hoped for lasting, meaningful peace.

General Douglas MacArthur, heroic general of the Pacific War, gave a speech designed to bring calm assurance to our nation. In it he said, "Japan will never again become a world power."

Never? We have lived to see Japan again become a world power and a major influence in the life of Americans. Never?

Man likes to say "never." Things like "man will never fly," and "a human will never run a four minute mile." Even in the realm of the spiritual we tend to say never. Such expressions as "he will never change," or "she will never amount to anything," or "those people will never be reached" are all too common. Things will never get so bad we can't afford food... Katrina did more damage to this country than people had imagined. We had \$6 gas a day later, but few people realized the long reaching effect it would have on our food supply. I didn't, it took a wakeup call. That wakeup call had two names, Katrina and Rita. You see, Katrina did the damage to the Gulf Coast and Rita kicked the crap out of the oil platforms.

o

That was only 10 months back at the moment. No problem right, we're a technological nation with the resources to rebuild, right? They didn't have New Orleans rebuilt and some of those oil platforms still needed repairing. We had all lived it or seen it on TV, but we weren't prepared for what came next. During the spring of 2006, California experienced rolling blackouts.

- The first was the Northeast Blackout of 1965 on 9Nov65.
- Next was the NY City Blackout of 13-14Jul77, resulted in looting and rioting.
- On 19Dec78, a major blackout affected 80% of France.
- The Great Storm of '87 brought down power lines throughout southern England causing extensive blackouts.
- On 13Mar89, a geomagnetic storm caused the Hydro-Quebec power failure which left 6 million people without power for 9 or more hours.
- On 11Aug96, the Western Intertie buckled under high summer heat, causing a cascading power failure affecting nine western states and parts of Mexico.
- The January '98 Ice Storm in northeastern North America caused prolonged blackouts, particularly in Quebec where many transmission towers were destroyed by ice.
- The Esso Longford gas explosion on 25Sep98, caused a complete loss of gas supplies to the entire state of Victoria, Australia for 2 weeks

- During the 12-month California electricity crisis of 2000-01, there were regular power failures due to energy shortages and market manipulation resulting from failed deregulation. Goodbye Gray, Hello Arnold.
- On 14Aug03, there was a wide-area power failure in the northeastern USA and central Canada, affecting 50 million people.

Most were attributed to simple mechanical failures or human error. All except for the fifth item on the list, a geomagnetic storm, totally beyond the control of any human being. The same could be said for those that were caused by ice storms, but there is a difference, the one in '89 could have taken out communication satellites and caused a more widespread grid failure, cascading like it did in August of 2003.

Communications depend, these days, on satellites. Fry the satellites and you lose phones, TV and a whole lot of stuff. Blow a few major transformers with a major solar flare and we could really be in trouble. Not only wouldn't we have much food, we wouldn't have the power to process what we had. Or even the factories to build the replace components for our electrical system, unless someone found some way to supply those factories with electricity. Something like that would take the help of the government, can I stop here?

In this century, the government has shown us that they can't anticipate disasters, they cannot adequately respond, nor can they win a war against a bunch of amateurs. It simply wouldn't be politically correct to nuke a town where 95% of the population of the community was terrorists. If we aren't politically correct, there are several other nuclear nations out there who clearly prevent us from acting, or more likely nuke us in retaliation. I think the rock is on the left and the hard spot is on the right, but does it matter?

I know what I forgot; the UN is meeting in July to disarm the world. Never say never! The NRA called and wanted money. They've already sent a million letters to the UN that nobody will ever read. They wanted \$95 to include our names on the list, apiece.

o

We 4 seniors sat down over a rare drink just to try and figure out what it all meant. There was bird flu out there but that might turn out to be the least of our worries. Osama announced he was planning another terrorist attack on the US. So question number 1 was: What if he hits our power system and brings down the grid for an extended time? Question number 2 was: What if we have another solar eruption that accomplishes the same thing? Question number 3 became: What if the estimate of food shortages is an underestimate? Which led to Question number 4: What if it was some combination of the above?

Mind you, this was only one of dozens of possible scenarios; however with rolling blackouts in California in June, the power grid was in serious trouble and what about the rising prices of food and gas? We could prepare:

- Top off the fuel tanks and evaluate our fuel needs.
- Pack the storage room with all the food we can get/afford.
- Examine our electrical needs and do whatever it takes to cover them for an extended period of time.
- Evaluate our security and determine what we should do to protect what we have.

We had 500 gallons of E85, 20,000-gallons of diesel/biodiesel mix in the 40,000 gallon tank and 5,700-gallons of propane. We'd better add 10,000-gallons each of B100 and diesel, treating it with PRI-D. That should cover our energy need for quite a while. We had too many pipes buried in the ground and they weren't all marked. We decided to add a 10,000 buried gallon tank for E-85. Finally, we decided to add a used 30,000 gallon propane tank... buried and 95% full.

Food was more a matter of what we could get than what we could afford, plus we only had so much storage space. We all went to Prescott and hit both Costco stores for 2 days straight. That covered our food needs.

Matt and I grabbed a pocketful of cash and hit the Reservations; even with the extra \$4 they were cheaper than the store on cigarettes.

It hadn't been that long since we'd done the physical inventory and we compared that to our sales records and ordered ammo to fill in what we'd sold. If we hadn't it wouldn't have been a big deal.

One other thing although it's hardly worth mentioning, Liz and the 4 of us worked the guns stores and as such carried. The only change there was to add a backup piece to our .45s, something small and very concealable. That turned out to be the Walther PPK in .380.

◦

"Are you going to stay single your whole life and be and old maid, Liz?"

"I haven't found the right man yet Mom. If I do, I do and if I don't, so what? You waited to have children late in life and that's not my fault. Sara and Juls can have grandchildren for you, it's not my responsibility. What's the rush, I'm only 32?"

I caught the tail end of the argument and I knew better than to get involved. Liz had a point and she'd been so in love with Jim. By now, she must realize that life wasn't always fair. I'd give it some thought; maybe there was something I could do for her to let her know just how special she was to Sue and me. Then it dawned on me, Liz loved my model 70. It was older than she was but shot as good as some of the modern sniper rifles. For a man to give his daughter a rifle for a birthday present might raise a few eyebrows in normal circles, but our kids cut their eyeteeth on guns.

Matt and I had been in the firearms business for 40 years and it had been good to us. We had invested extra profits in firearms just to keep them and let them appreciate. Most had been wise investments, but we had a few bad choices in the bunch. It was stuff we couldn't really sell, like the SPAs-12s and 15s. Most LEOs didn't use them and we didn't have them on display. They were probably worth about \$5,000 each and still new, in the box. They aren't a NFA firearm, BTW, you're thinking of the Street Sweeper, which is.

In late June, there was some talk in the papers of our starting to pull out of Iraq in September of this year. It might be a good idea, the Iraqi government had to take over sometime and we were losing too many troops. Plus there was a looming confrontation with North Korea over that missile they apparently wanted to test. Perhaps if we got out of Iraq, we wouldn't be tempted to go into Iran.

o

"What's up, why did the generator kicked in?"

"Power outage, Rob. Most of the country is out. The TV station said they were running on a backup generator. Some kind of solar storm like the one they had in Canada a few years back."

"Any idea how bad it is Matt?"

"Cell phones don't work, long distance is out, really can't say. It started on the east coast like in 2003 but didn't stop at the Midwest."

"We're good for a while, I serviced the generator and we have 40,000-gallons of B50."

"Is your old generator wired in to cover us for when you have to shut down the 60kw unit for service?"

"Yes, I swapped it out, but didn't eliminate it. I figured if we got stuck in the shelter, we could run it instead of the big one. I didn't bother to buy the equipment to synchronize them, so it's one or the other but not both. Did the TV say how long the outage would last?"

"They didn't know. Let's grab a beer and watch for a while, maybe they'll know more by now."

...solar flare that burned out several pieces of equipment in New York state and Canada. Local utilities are trying to isolate themselves from the grid and restore power. Here in Arizona, we expect the outage to be short lived because the plant in Holbrook wasn't damaged and Palo Verde is still operational. Governor Janet Napolitano urged calm while the power is being restored. With rising temperatures, residents are urged to limit

their movement to avoid becoming overheated. While local temperatures are in the high 70s, Phoenix is at 100°. More news after the break.

"I think it could be worse than they're saying, Rob. The phones are out and that solar flare could be more widespread than that broadcast indicates."

"If that's the case, there is no fuel available unless the station has a backup generator. I don't know many that do. I'll go shut down the server, it's probably time to defrag the HDD anyway. I'll tell Liz to lock up; I doubt we'll get many customers today."

"Customers? I think we had one last week, we're too far off the beaten path."

"My car won't start."

"What do you mean Sue, it's brand new?"

"It's deader than a doornail. Try your pickup."

I tried the Ford, the Dodge might be a diesel, but it had more electronics than the old F-100. That started right up but then it was in the shed with the galvanized roof. I tried the Dodge and it clicked but wouldn't start. Crap. Now, a man doesn't have a huge shelter and underground storage and not have spare parts for everything on 4 wheels, even the new Jeep Cherokee. However, neither Matt nor I were very good mechanics. I figured I'd better get Matt and we'd drive into town, find a mechanic and pay him to come out and get everything running.

"I can come, but I don't have any parts."

"We have the parts, we're just short on knowing how to install them."

"There is no electricity, my equipment doesn't work."

"We have electricity from our standby generator. Get what you need and hop in; I'll pay well to get our vehicles running."

"There isn't any fuel, mister; none of the stations have power."

"We have fuel. The only thing we're short on is experience. Are you coming or not?"

"\$40 an hour."

"Fine, let's go."

Now, I'd have thought that the man would be more than willing to come since I was willing to pay his going rate, had the parts and the power. Anything to get out of Sedona, the town was a madhouse with tourists being stranded and the lights out. I had to lay 2

Ben Franklins in his hands before he was willing to budge. By the time we got home. Liz had lugged all the boxes of parts out of the storage room and they were sitting there waiting to be installed. It took the man 6 hours to get all of the vehicles running. He even checked out my F-100. We loaded his tools back in the Ford and took him back to town. I laid a Grant on him and told him to keep the change.

Sedona is a nice place to visit when it has power, but the power was still out and temps were rising with the temperature. The effects of a solar flare are not unlike those of EMP, so you can imagine what town was like. We didn't stay in town any longer than was necessary.

Like most homes in Arizona, our homes were landscaped in the so called 'desert landscaping', rocks instead of grass. When you're our age, you appreciate not needing to mow a lawn. Except for the building we'd erected, the half section was the same as it had been when we moved here. It wasn't fenced; we had 2 homes, the business building and a small well house. At least you couldn't see the new fuel tanks. There wasn't any reason for anyone to bother us.

o

People who came to the place and parked in our gravel parking lot didn't realize they were parked on top of enough supplies to keep a single family going for many years. Anything we had of value was hidden in plain sight, provided you knew where to look. We didn't have any livestock, not even pets. Living, breathing animals require care and tend to tie you to one location. (See tip #5) God help the motels in town that had electric locks on their doors and no backup power.

The power outage continues into its second day with no relief in sight. This had led to severe shortages of gasoline and fuel because of an inability to pump the fuel. Grocery stores have had to resort to manual checkout and limiting food purchases due to the lack of electricity. The Phoenix forecast is for temperatures as high as 107° today and 108° on Saturday with slight cooling in the interim. Temperatures on the 4th of July are forecast for 104°.

The implications of this power outage are more serious than first imagined. The solar flare was at its highest intensity on the east coast but has affected vehicles and equipment as far away as Los Angeles. Rioting has broken out in several large cities because of the temperatures and the lack of electricity. Several Governors have declared states of emergency and called out National Guard units and/or state defense forces.

The most serious problem is for people on life support systems who didn't have a source of backup power. Beyond that, most of the newer motor vehicles which rely on engine computers are inoperable, greatly reducing the effectiveness of law enforcement. The Governor has not yet activated Arizona's National Guard units, saying only that it is 'under consideration'.

The Department of Energy issued a statement stating that due to an absence of power and the limited number of replacement units for the transformers and other components burned out by the solar flare, it could be weeks until power is fully restored. This problem is greatly compounded for vehicle manufacturers due to a limited supply of replacement parts for the stranded vehicles.

President Bush issued a statement this morning requesting that law enforcement be given first priority on vehicle repair parts. He also announced cancellation of deployment of troops slated for Iraq, indicating that they would be used here to assist local authorities. As you may know, most military vehicles are hardened against the effects of EMP and were protected from the solar flare. We will return after this message from our sponsors.

"She'd better call out the Guard. If they haven't restored power by now, it's going to take a while."

"It reminds me of a story I read once titled *Lights Out*."

"I read that, but that was an unexplained EMP attack wasn't it?"

"It was explained. The way I see it, we're looking at food shortages from 2 sources. First the inability to distribute what is in the supply chain coupled with second, a shortage of food being produced. How's that for a doomsday scenario?"

The three major needs of humans is probably the main reason for nations to go to war. These needs are food, water and shelter. If a nation or group is deprived of these essentials they resort to war to try and attempt to fix the problem.

o

I'll bet you think I've been asleep at the switch because I had the Collins KWM-2A Transceiver, right? Wrong, I bought a Yaesu FT-DX9000MP with all of the bells and whistles. We put Yaesu FT-897s in all of the vehicles, even the kids. I added a Quadra running off 240v, man do I have power! Our backup radio was a Kenwood TS-2000. We finally got licenses when all you had to do was memorize some information and take a written test. We're only Technicians, but in a TSHTF scenario, who cares? That radio equipment cost a fortune, but I had a fortune to spend, so why not?

We upgraded the antennas and put them on a higher tower that's retractable. We're never out of communications range because every vehicle has all kinds of radios mounted in faraday cages, the ham radios, business radios and CB radios. It does get to be a bit confusing at times. Thermistors protect the radios from the antennas so no amount of EMP can hurt the radios. I also picked up some of those cheaper radios, the FRS units and stored them in the storage room; you never know when they might come in handy. I sold 2 of the SPAS-15s and 3 SPAS-12s to pay for it all.

The kids all drive old Volkswagen Type I bugs, we bought them for them because almost nothing will kill that engine and we have spare parts. I expect they'll show up any minute now that we know what the situation is. Most of their cars are newer than my F-100, but they're serviceable and economical. It's something to consider with the price of gas being what it is. We have 2 100-gallon drums of stabilized regular gas, just in case. So, if you see an old Bug running on the road towards Sedona sprouting enough antennas for a cop car, wave, it's probably the kids. They'll be going 55mph. stretching their gas.

o

Have you ever thought of what it takes to become successful? Hard work and a little luck is all. Or, maybe a lot of luck, but that's all relative. You start out by saving money when you're young. It becomes a habit and later, when you're older like we are, you have more money than you know what to do with. Ask yourself how much you would have if you bought 100 shares of IBM stock in 1960 (~\$10,000) or so and held onto it.

In 1961, your shares increased to 150; in 1964, you had 187.5; in 1966, 281.25; in 1967, 351.5625; in 1968, 703.125; in 1973, 878.90625; in 1979, 3,515.625; in 1997, 7,031.25; and, in 1999, 14,062.5. Current market value of your \$10,000 investment is ~ \$1,084,922. Your last dividend check was ~ \$4,218.75. But, as a smart investor, you've rolled all those dividends back into IBM stock, right? Sorry, my Cray is tied up at the moment, but you're richer than dirt and all you did was buy 100 shares of IBM in 1960, like I did. Not all of our money was in that Mutual Fund. If you leave your shares in the hands of your broker, he accumulates fractional shares and reinvests your dividends, for a fee. Who is your broker, Woulda, Coulda or Shoulda? I use *Hindsight*, his vision is 20/20.

Eating cheap food for a number of years paid off handsomely. I'll bet when Sue and I are gone and the kids suddenly become millionaires, they'll get over wearing hand-me-down clothes and learn to love to eat beans and rice, or maybe not. I didn't have to sell the shotguns to buy the radio equipment, but I wanted to be rid of them, I had more. Matt was nearly in the same shape I was, but probably only by half. He got into the frugal business later than I did.

One more thought on the subject, have you ever heard the expression; *Don't change horses in the middle of the stream*? Sue and I are beyond comfortable, but you'd never know it look at our old motor vehicles. The corporation owns most of our guns and as long as we don't sell them, they are unrealized profits, hence not taxed. \$50 a week into a Mutual Fund for 40 years or so tends to add up. Our \$104,000 investment isn't \$104,000 anymore. I should have bought more of that IBM stock... but I was in the Army and \$10,000 was a LOT of money and I had many sleepless nights. So, I guess you could say I earned every penny of what we had now. I had been saving my money to buy a new car, but didn't, lucky me. I wanted a Jaguar XKE, remember them? I had heard about them and planned to buy one when they came out.

The Jaguar "E" type (also known as E-type or XK-E) is one of the greatest cars ever built. It has style, performance, and pedigree: its shell was designed by an aerodynamics engineer; it was propelled by a high-spec version of the famous XK engine, and was based on the 50's Le Mans winning D type race car. Best of all, unlike other 'supercars' of its time, it was a mass-market product: over 70.000 have been built. April 1961 Jaguar introduced the "E" type in the USA. To add a touch of glamour to the event, the gold bronze coupe was accompanied by actress Marilyn Hanold (who played in such gems as *Frankenstein meets the Space Monster*, *The Brain that wouldn't Die*, and who was Playboy's Playmate of the month in June 1959...) She was sometimes credited as Marilyn Harold. I didn't get the car or the brunette, but it doesn't seem to matter much now. Marilyn lives in Salt Lake City, where she is active in promoting the performing arts. She's only a year older than us.

o

"Hey, have any trouble getting here?"

"Hi, Daddy. No, we had an extra can of gas in the front, no trouble. Juls was right behind us, she should be here any minute. She brought her boyfriend."

"She didn't happen to bring a spare for Liz, did she?"

"She hasn't found the right man yet?"

"Apparently not."

"They broke the mold when they made you Daddy, didn't you know?"

"She could do far better than me, Sara."

"Tell her, not me."

"John, how are you doing?"

"We were working on an interesting dig over near the meteor crater. I..."

"You can tell Daddy all about it later Jack, I'm sure he'll be thrilled to know what you found."

Not!

"What was Julia doing in Winslow?"

"I don't know, they didn't get out of the motel much, Daddy."

I guess I know now, and shouldn't have asked. I'm going to have to have a word with this boyfriend of hers and, by God she'd better be wearing an engagement ring. Liberal Arts indeed!

"Daddy, meet Peter Hayes. He was in Winslow with me."

"I heard, where's the diamond?"

"In my pocket sir, Juls said I needed your permission first."

"You got it, although you didn't seem to need it to be fooling around."

"Oh Daddy, mind your own business."

"I am minding my own business. Got a license?"

"Yes, we do."

"Fine, I'll get your mother and we'll go into town. Well, what are you waiting for Pete, give her the ring!"

"Daddy!"

"Don't need any electricity to perform a wedding. And if you're going to be sleeping together in my house, it's going to be as man and wife, not as boyfriend and wh... oh never mind, I'll get Sue."

o

"You're just too old fashioned, dear. Kids these days find out if their compatible first."

"Maybe, but I'll feel better once we get Romeo and Julia married."

"Daddy, did you start to call me a whore?"

"I didn't, that's all that matters, Julia. What I think is my business. Maybe I am too old fashioned, but your mother and I waited until we got to Acapulco. Food is short, gas prices are up and now we have an energy outage. Keep your eyes peeled for a likely prospect for Liz, she not getting any younger."

"I will not."

"We'll be lucky to find a preacher with all these people in town. That lady Governor better call out the Guard. Which Church do you belong to Pete?"

"I'm a Methodist, sir."

"Figures. Fine, we'll use your church. Sue, you write them a check like we did for Sara and John."

"Twenty thousand, wasn't it?"

"Yeah, 10 from each of us."

"I balance the checkbook, honey, I saw the other check."

"I didn't say anything. Why don't you write Liz a check for \$30 grand, maybe she'll get off the dime?"

"I had a word with her."

"I overheard. I decided to give her my Winchester model 70 for her birthday. You'd better tell her that Sara says they broke the mold and I'm already married."

Hmm, all these tourists stuck in town might prove to be good for what ails Liz. Now, if I can find a fella who's not married... The grocery stores had more problems than a lack of electricity, how many people kept a lot of cash on hand? Matt and I did, but we had a safe or two, and one of them was stuffed with gold and silver. The IBM stock? I sold it after I got the last dividend check, there is such a thing as too much of a good thing. Took the check to the bank and had a word with the manager. He had to order in the cash, they didn't usually keep that much on hand. No, not all of it, I bought gold with $\frac{2}{3}$ of it, which served to change my basis in the gold I already had, rather remarkably.

What place does luck play in it? A lot now that you mention it, the last dividend was paid on 6/10/06 for owners of record on 5/10/06. I sold out on 6/01/06 for market price. I paid about \$625 an ounce for the gold when I converted the $\frac{2}{3}$ into metal. A million dollars in new \$100 bills is quite a pile of cash, but it fit in the safe ok. Took a catalog case to carry it back to the house.

I'm sure that by now you're wondering how much money does this guy have? Not enough to worry Bill Gates or Warren Buffet, that's for sure. I bought 3,200 ounces of gold and already had quite a bit. The market went down, but I'm not worried now that the power is out, it will go up like a skyrocket. I figure to triple my wealth in about 60 days, if the outage lasts that long. That's just on the shy side of 267 pounds, if you're wondering. When you buy enough, the premium is far smaller. What about the Mutual Fund? Cashed that out when we hit in '99. Bought Gold at \$300 an ounce. Oh, that didn't answer your question? Sorry.

What place does luck play in it? What didn't go into gold went into the coffers of the US Government (IRS) and the state of Arizona. We didn't need the cash at the moment and I bought this crystal ball on E-Bay from some guy in California. It doesn't take a genius to play the stock market if you do it for the long term, it's the short term trading that kills

most investors. Why didn't I dump Big Blue then? Hey, it's IBM and it's a good investment at any time, just as long as you're in it for the long term.

o

"I now pronounce you man and wife."

"Ok Pete, I'll shake your hand now, I was waiting to make sure you did the right thing by Julia."

"She tells me that you're a gun dealer."

"Yes, Matt and I go back 40 years or more."

"You don't happen to know where I could find a good HK91, do you. I listened to Juls talk about guns until I'm blue in the face and she says that the HK91 is a treasure."

"Know anything about that rifle Pete?"

"Sir, it's Peter. I've done the usual research on the internet and know that they're worth about \$2,500, if you can find one. Even without the rather generous gift from you and your wife, I have enough money to buy one, if I could find one. I closed my bank account when we headed to Winslow and brought all the money I have, I can pay cash."

"Do you have \$750 cash money?"

"I want the gun, sir, not magazines and ammo."

"Peter \$750 will get you the rifle, 10 20-round magazines, a sight adjustment tool, a light bipod, muzzle cap, cleaning kit and HK patch. I'll throw in the ammo now that you're a member of the family. That's the MSRP from when I bought the gun. It's new, in the box and probably worth 3 grand. Call it a wedding bonus."

"I don't know what to say."

"I believe the usual response would be *Thank you.*"

I should tell you that my new son-in-law was a bit slow on saying thank you; he had to get his jaw off the floor. I had intended to give him the gun, but if he paid for it, even a small amount, he would appreciate it far more than if it was a gift. By my tally, that was 2 down and 1 to go. I was pretty sure that Liz didn't like girls, thank God, but if she were waiting for the perfect man, she might have a long wait. Most women will be more than happy to tell you that there is no such thing as the perfect man. If you don't believe me, ask one.

For the third day, efforts to restore power to the country have met with little success. Some local utilities, able to disconnect from the power grid have done so and have been able to restore power locally. Officials continue to work on restoring power to Arizona, having successfully disconnected from the national grid.

Late last night, the Governor activated the Arizona National Guard. Throughout the day, busses have been dispatched to various locations inundated with stranded tourists. Indications are that vehicles will be loaded on trains and transferred to Phoenix where most of the tourists are being brought to.

By order of the Governor, power is being restored on the basis of priority with nursing homes, hospitals and select stores receiving the first power allocations. This has served to make fuel available although many vehicles aren't working. Of primary interest is preserving as much of the food as is possible and allowing tractor trailer rigs to make their deliveries.

In northern Arizona, power supplied by the coal fueled generating plant in Holbrook is being rerouted along the I-40 corridor. Early indications are that power will be fully restored to Flagstaff by sometime later today. This station has managed to stay on the air by virtue of a standby generator powered by natural gas. In the absence of power being restored, we will go off the air at 10pm to service our equipment. We will return after a brief break.

o

"Dad, can I use your Ford?"

"Going to town?"

"I thought I'll go check things out, yes."

"I don't mean to be nosy, but any particular reason?"

"I wanted to see how Tom was."

"Tom who?"

"You don't know him. But I've been seeing him for a while."

"As in a male like Thomas and not a female like Thomasina?"

"Mom and you just have to back off, I'm not GAY! I met him last year and have been seeing him on and off since."

"Do you actually mean to tell me that you've been dating a man for over a year and your mother and I know nothing about it?"

"It was none of your business. The two of you remind me of Pinocchio just after he's told a big fib. Your noses get about that long," she said holding her hands wide.

I was inclined to ask more questions, but she stopped me cold with her comment. I concluded that I better give Sue a heads up and we should drop the matter. It nagged at me; if she'd been seeing him for over a year and his name was Tom, I began to wonder if I could figure out who he was.

Do you have any idea how many people there are in Sedona named Tom or listed with a T? Too darned many, that's how many. Maybe she met him in the store; I searched our customer list and came up with about 50 Tom's. It never occurred to me that it could be his middle name as in J. Thomas Somebody, or even James T. Somebody. I think it was worse knowing than not knowing. Trying to figure it out was a sure way to drive myself crazy.

We had other fish to fry; it was time to spend some of the hard earned gold and money I had. Maybe we'd get power back and maybe not. Didn't matter, we had it now and I had a suitcase full of cash in the safe.

"Let's go, Matt."

"Where?"

"Flagstaff."

"What's in Flagstaff?"

"Mobile home dealers. We're bit tight on space with all 3 girls home. I have money to burn and I think I should buy some mobile homes to put them up."

"Who sells them?"

"Action Manufactured Homes and Steve Kay Mobile Homes. Both specialize in Log Style and Cabin Type Manufactured Homes by Champion and Redman. I figure we're going to need 6 homes."

"Whoa, hold on there, I don't have that kind of cash."

"I do and I can't take it with me. I'll cover you, don't worry about it."

"I can see you buying 2, but why 6?"

"Liz is seeing someone and I figure your kids will show up any minute."

"You planning a shotgun wedding for her too?"

"Do you have any idea how many people in Sedona are named Tom?"

"Haven't the foggiest."

"Too darn many to figure out who he is. We'd better take Sarah and Sue with us, they will have a better idea as to individual tastes."